CNMI mourns passing of Labor official San Nicolas. PAGE 3
DCCA expects massive lines for DNAP. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

CNMI open again for tourists

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has declared the CNMI open for business once again.

Despite the islands still recovering from two destructive typhoons—Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut—Torres said the Commonwealth is once again ready to welcome tourists.

"We want to bring our tourists back on the islands. We want to in-

See TOURISTS on Page 4

Over 1K Yutu victims get Red Cross cash aid

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter was able to provide financial assistance to over 1,000 families that were affected by Super Typhoon Yutu and will continue to provide financial aid to needy families.

Red Cross executive director John Hirsch said that, so far, the chapter was able to provide financial assistance to 1,500 families.

See RED CROSS on Page 4

Businesses can lay off, cut hours

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is urging all businesses and employers to inform them if they plan to either lay off some of their workers or cut working hours after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the islands last month.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said that businesses or employers should notify them of their intention

See BUSINESSES on Page 4

Work remains on 4 Saipan feeders

» Water production reaches 72 percent

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is still working to restore electric power to four out of nine feeders on Saipan.

Feeders Kiya 1 to 4 are still offline, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho

Kiya 1 areas are Chalan Kiya going up to As Terlaje, Kannat Tabla, Airport Road, and partials of Dandan and Obyan.

Kiya 2 areas are Northern Marianas College and its surroundings, As Lito and Koblerville.

Kiya 3 covers Middle Road from Sugar King onward to Gualo Rai.

Kiya 4 covers Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, and Chalan Kiya to the Gilbert

See WORK on Page 4

TEAR DOWN OPERATION
Caleb Baker, of the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron, rolls up a hose during reverse osmosis water purification unit tear down on Saipan on Nov. 21, 2018 The station at the Garapan Fishing Base ended their drinkable water filling station operations on Nov. 20. Residents will still be able to find drinkable water at the RO station at Pak Pak Beach in San Antonio, which is open Monday through Sunday from 7:30am to 6pm.
U.S. AIR FORCE/CHRISTOPHER RUANO

INSIDE

WORLD
Angela Merkel rejects calls for Germany to drop its support on migration.
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SCIENCE & TECH
Limiting screen time for your kid? It's harder than it looks.
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LIFE & STYLE
Michelle Obama's "Becoming" has sold more than 1.4 million copies.
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Local

XTRA Airways, officials settle former manager's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Florida-based XTRA Airways Inc. and its officials have settled a lawsuit filed against them by its former manager for the airline's Asian operations from the Saipan office for allegedly terminating him without cause a few months after he was hired in 2017.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the parties' request last Nov. 8 to give them 30 days to finalize their settlement and then voluntarily dismiss the lawsuit.

Manglona gave the parties until Dec. 10 to do so.

The judge vacated the case management conference set for last Thursday, Nov. 15.

Manglona said in light of Thomas L. Nolte's notice of voluntary dismissal of his second cause of action, the motion to dismiss filed by defendant TEM Enterprises, which owns Xtra Airways is moot.

Last Nov. 8, Nolte and TEM Enterprises, through their lawyers, told the court that they have reached a settlement on all issues, including attorney's fees and costs.

Colin Thompson is counsel for Nolte, while lawyer Robert Turk is counsel for TEM Enterprises.

In the original complaint, Nolte sued XTRA Airways and five unnamed co-defendants for breach of written and oral contracts, and fraud. He demanded lost wages, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In his amended complaint, Nolte sued Tem Enterprises, which owns XTRA Airways, XTRA's chief operations officer Andrew D. Lotter, and XTRA chief executive officer Frank J. Visconti for fraud, and only against XTRA for breach of contract.

Nolte asked the court to hold the defendants liable to compensate him for lost earnings, damages, and court costs. He demanded a jury trial.

XTRA Airways flights from China to Saipan were cancelled starting Nov. 10, 2017, three months after it opened flights from Nanjing to Saipan.

Thompson alleged in the complaint that XTRA's true goal in hiring Nolte was to provide a short-term boost to XTRA's net value by demonstrating to prospective buyers that XTRA had an existing China-Saipan route and a manager (Nolte) to operate the route.

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All Winners are eligible to win the midnight Super Draw.
Come play today and you could be the next big winner!

CNMI mourns passing of Labor official San Nicolas

The CNMI is mourning the passing of Department of Labor official Gil Jose Manibusan San Nicolas, who worked at Labor for over 30 years. He died last Sunday morning at his home in Tanapag due to cardiac arrest.

San Nicolas, 55, was the Labor enforcement director at the time of his death. He used to serve as Labor secretary during the term of then-governor Benigno R. Fitial.

San Nicolas is survived by his wife, CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice's secretary Irene Teregeyo San Nicolas, three children—Reneacia Ann, Gilbert Joaquin, and Catherine Elisa.

Gilbert Joaquin San Nicolas is a Marine staff sergeant based in San Diego, California. He is arriving on Saipan this Saturday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Gil was a hardworking and knowledgeable public servant who was loyal to Labor and his colleagues. Torres said Gil truly believed in the work and in the enforcement of labor laws.

"I have gotten to know him really well these last few years, and he really was a great man who cared about his family and his colleagues within DOL and in government," the governor said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with him, his wife Irene, and his family. He will be very missed."

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said Wednesday that the passing of good friend and colleague, Gil, came as a shock to all.

Benavente said Gil worked for more than 30 years in the department, first known as the Department of Labor and Immigration, and also Commerce and Labor.

She said Gil's many years of experience, as a Labor law enforcement officer, division director, and as a former Labor secretary, guided the various government administrations through some turbulent times.

"He was the calm presence amidst a booming economy, austerity measures, department transformations, and the enactment of numerous laws and statutes," Benavente said.

Benavente said Gil performed his duties to the best of his ability, treated everyone equally, and was a tough enforcement officer who did not tolerate abuse of employees by any employer.

"We will also miss his sense of humor and the jokes he'd crack just to break the tension in our department meetings," the Labor secretary said.

Irene San Nicolas related Wednesday that on that fateful Sunday morning, her husband was getting ready for work due to the government's ongoing typhoon recovery efforts.

Irene said she was sleeping in their bedroom when Gil went to the kitchen to prepare coffee and had a cardiac arrest.

Irene called 911. At 7:20am a physician declared him dead at CHC's emergency room due to "sudden cardiac arrest."

Irene said she was blessed to have Gil as her husband. "He was respectable. He was my best friend, my everything. He just did everything for me and our children."

Irene said she and Gil had been together for 38 years, with 30 of those years married to each other. Irene said she and Gil started dating when they were classmates in 10th grade at Mt. Carmel High School.

As a father to their children. Irene described him as the best. "He's such a family man to our kids and grandkids."

The family has been offering a Mass of intention and holy rosary at Sta. Remedios Church in Tanapag since Monday morning and evening.

On Monday at 7:30am, Gil's remains will leave the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel and will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church for viewing and last respects.

A Mass will be celebrated Monday at 11am followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, where Gil will be laid to rest. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Evacuees at DCCA shelters to stay for now

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs affirmed that they have no plans to close their shelters for now.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* that there is still no exact date as to when they plan to close the shelters under the department, such as the Saipan Aging Office in Garapan.

According to Hunter, the department has about 80 evacuees, a number of whom have recently submitted their rights of entry forms for assessment. The right of entry form is written permission from a landowner, or landlord, allowing his or her tenant to enter the premises and set up temporary shelter if needed.

The 80 shelterees constitute about 20 households.

He further noted that once the assessment of the rights of entry per household ends, it would greatly reduce the number of shelterees at the Saipan Aging Office.

"…Over the course of the next week, probably," Hunter said was when the assessments are expected to conclude. He added that roofing and tenting government projects have already initiated for some of the shelterees' homes.

Hunter noted that he is also working with the Public School System on closing their shelters. PSS has not released a specific date on when it plans to close its shelters in northern Saipan, where most of the shelterees are.

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According to Hunter, who declined to disclose the proposed shelter site, DCCA is currently reviewing what other facilities may be used as an extended term shelter. "We are looking at several options right now…and what is required to get them online, but we want one consolidated shelter [for everyone]," he said.

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Applicants may reach a Federal Emergency Management Agency representative at 1-800-621-3362. ***(PR)***

Man-Yi no longer threatens Marianas

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Typhoon Man-Yi, previously known as Tropical Storm Man-Yi, no longer threatens the Marianas.

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Although conditions were cancelled, CNMI residents still experienced strong gusty winds and heavy rain throughout the day yesterday.

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The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point will be monitoring the movement of Typhoon Man-Yi and will be issuing out bulletins as they become available. Residents of the Marianas are encouraged to keep a close watch on updates to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories that will be available through local media.

WORK

From Page 1

C. Ada Gymnasium.

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As for water, CUC reported that, as of last Tuesday, the island's water production had reached 72 percent, with 85 out of 131 water wells already up. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TOURISTS

From Page 1

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RED CROSS

From Page 1

"It's going pretty well, we've given over 1,500 families individual financial assistance. These would be people with homes that were completely destroyed or had major damage to them, like their roof completely blew off," he said.

The chapter has been distributing financial aid to needy families in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Eligible families were given $125 per individual living in the household.

Although the chapter prioritizes needy families in terms of financial assistance, the chapter is still handing out relief goods to those who sustained minor damage from Super Typhoon Yutu.

"If they sustained major damage like broken windows or had flooding in their house, then generally we're not providing financial assistance to those families because we only have a certain amount of resources and we want to prioritize needy families," said Hirsch.

"For those families, we're providing tarps, hygiene kits, coloring books, and all kinds of other things, just not the financial assistance," he added.

Saipan Tribune archives state that the assistance is given to families on Saipan and Tinian whose homes were either totally destroyed (two or more structural elements) or damaged (one structural element).

One structural element is a roof or a wall. To be considered structural damage, it must be collapsed rafters or wall studs and not just flooding and window or tin roof damage.

The Red Cross is currently stationed at the Marianas Business Plaza. On Tinian, they are currently stationed at the Tinian Community Gymnasium, which will be open daily from 9am to 5:30pm.

The head of household must bring an ID as proof of residency (official photo, lot number, phone or Commonwealth Utilities Corp. billing, or rental or lease agreement). Saipan residents must also bring photos of household damage.

For more information, call 234-3459.

BUSINESSES

From Page 1

in writing, with all the details "like how many hours, how many employees, and what positions. All the details." "That information that they would give us would also update the data that we have. So, that we tell the U.S. [DOL], our federal partners, that 'here we are, we have an economy that was basically destroyed. These are the reasons and positions that were affected.'"

That data would help CNMI DOL inform their federal partners of the CNMI's needs. "Like how much help that we need out here. It is really important that businesses put down everything in writing and notify [local] Labor. And we, in return, would relay this information to our federal partners."

There are at least 10 companies that have already notified local Labor in writing of their plans to reduce their operating hours and lay off or terminate employment of some of their workers.

Some have no guests in hotels, fewer restaurant patrons, or any other reason that affected their business after Yutu.

"Right now, there are people who don't have money. And if they have anything to spare, they either have their homes fixed or repair their cars," said Benavente.

Federal grant

Benavente said the CNMI DoL's Workforce Investment Agency has also received a $2,762,345 grant, the National Dislocated Worker Grant (former National Emergency Grant) that would financially assist affected workers who are eligible U.S. citizens..

"We are going to prioritize workers to put them, for example, in debris removal positions because that's what's badly needed at this point in time," she said.

"And then later, there will be grants for unemployment assistance for workers who have nowhere else to go or do. We will help them financially with the first NDW grant. The second will be the [Disaster Unemployment Assistance]."

Both are federal grants that CNMI Labor applied for and they are hoping they could get $1 million or more from the DUA.

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in writing, with all the details "like how many hours, how many employees, and what positions. All the details." "That information that they would give us would also update the data that we have. So, that we tell the U.S. [DOL], our federal partners, that 'here we are, we have an economy that was basically destroyed. These are the reasons and positions that were affected.'"

That data would help CNMI DOL inform their federal partners of the CNMI's needs. "Like how much help that we need out here. It is really important that businesses put down everything in writing and notify [local] Labor. And we, in return, would relay this information to our federal partners."

There are at least 10 companies that have already notified local Labor in writing of their plans to reduce their operating hours and lay off or terminate employment of some of their workers.

Some have no guests in hotels, fewer restaurant patrons, or any other reason that affected their business after Yutu.

"Right now, there are people who don't have money. And if they have anything to spare, they either have their homes fixed or repair their cars," said Benavente.

Federal grant

Benavente said the CNMI DoL's Workforce Investment Agency has also received a $2,762,345 grant, the National Dislocated Worker Grant (former National Emergency Grant) that would financially assist affected workers who are eligible U.S. citizens..

"We are going to prioritize workers to put them, for example, in debris removal positions because that's what's badly needed at this point in time," she said.

"And then later, there will be grants for unemployment assistance for workers who have nowhere else to go or do. We will help them financially with the first NDW grant. The second will be the [Disaster Unemployment Assistance]."

Both are federal grants that CNMI Labor applied for and they are hoping they could get $1 million or more from the DUA.

RED CROSS

From Page 1

"It's going pretty well, we've given over 1,500 families individual financial assistance. These would be people with homes that were completely destroyed or had major damage to them, like their roof completely blew off," he said.

The chapter has been distributing financial aid to needy families in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Eligible families were given $125 per individual living in the household.

Although the chapter prioritizes needy families in terms of financial assistance, the chapter is still handing out relief goods to those who sustained minor damage from Super Typhoon Yutu.

"If they sustained major damage like broken windows or had flooding in their house, then generally we're not providing financial assistance to those families because we only have a certain amount of resources and we want to prioritize needy families," said Hirsch.

"For those families, we're providing tarps, hygiene kits, coloring books, and all kinds of other things, just not the financial assistance," he added.

Saipan Tribune archives state that the assistance is given to families on Saipan and Tinian whose homes were either totally destroyed (two or more structural elements) or damaged (one structural element).

One structural element is a roof or a wall. To be considered structural damage, it must be collapsed rafters or wall studs and not just flooding and window or tin roof damage.

The Red Cross is currently stationed at the Marianas Business Plaza. On Tinian, they are currently stationed at the Tinian Community Gymnasium, which will be open daily from 9am to 5:30pm.

The head of household must bring an ID as proof of residency (official photo, lot number, phone or Commonwealth Utilities Corp. billing, or rental or lease agreement). Saipan residents must also bring photos of household damage.

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Casino workers who lost jobs seek answers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly a hundred former employees of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have accepted being laid off just before the holidays, but they hope that someone from upper management could provide them with answer to some of their questions.

"We understand that Saipan is in a state of disaster after the typhoon and there are not enough tourists that are coming in to play. But, hopefully somebody from management meet with us before they send us home," said Mauro Barcoma—a sentiment shared by fellow ex-IPI employees Josh Noel Lapasaran, and Christine Montana.

Bacoma pointed out that, similar to his case, some of the laid-off employees just had their employment contracts renewed. "I just received my I-797 [form]. Still, I was also laid off. We want some of our questions to be answered," he added.

Starting Monday, IPI had been laying off foreign workers, mostly in the gaming department—card dealers and supervisors—and managers working at the casino.

"It was emotionally and physically stressful for us after the typhoon. We were also victims [of the typhoon]," Barcoma said.

Commonwealth Casino Commission vice chair Joseph Reyes and executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview that IPI went through the process of informing them and the local Department of Labor that they would be laying off workers as they were also affected by the cancellation of flights and the closure of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport due to Yutu's destruction.

"IPI had informed the executive director [Deleon Guerrero]. It was a tough call on IPI's part but they saw it was necessary to lay off some workers. We all know that there are no tourists coming in, so it was a business decision," said Reyes.

Deleon Guerrero added: "Yes, IPI informed the commission and the Department of Labor beforehand. They followed the right process."

The company also sought the help of federal Labor but it was informed that IPI, like other companies in the CNMI, suffered losses and has the right to lay off workers or cut their operational hours.

Additional compensation

Lapasaran and Montana hope that IPI would provide them additional compensation on top of the seven-day payment that they are going to receive and if they still have accrued paid time off. Both had just come back a few months ago from the Philippines, with Lapasaran having minor surgery and Montana also having a medical checkup.

"I came back to Saipan last July and, after a few months, I'm jobless. I used up my savings for my operation and I'm just starting to save money again. We're going back to the Philippines with limited money and no work. What will happen to us after that?" said Lapasaran.

Montana returned to the CNMI only last August. "I didn't go home for a vacation. It was for a medical checkup. Now, after just a few short months, I'm going home again but this time for good. What will happen to our families with the small amount that we're getting?"

They are hoping for additional compensation that would tide them over until they could find new jobs.

"We feel that we're entitled to at least four months of our salary since some of us still have one year left with our contracts" said Barcoma.

"People think that all of those who are working in the casino have high salaries. Some of us are being paid the minimum wage, $7.25 an hour, and were not given an increase since we started working here," added Lapasaran.

They added that some of them also used up their paid time off, when they joined the cleanup and relief efforts after Yutu.

"Instead of us getting paid with our [paid time off], we had to use it since they forced us when we volunteered for community service. If we didn't use it during our volunteer work, we won't get paid since the casino had cut hours and closed for a few days," added Barcoma.

Some workers that are getting paid the minimum wage of $7.25 would be receiving $406 for the seven-day payment.

Saipan Tribune sought IPI for comments but they have yet to respond as of press time.

JON PEREZ

The facade of the still-to-be finished Imperial Pacific Resort glows in the night sky.

DCCA expects massive lines for DNAP

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin-encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is expecting massive lines and camping for the first day of the disaster food stamp distributions this Sunday at the Nutritional Assistance Program office in As Lito.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter told *Saipan Tribune* that his office is expecting massive lines on the first few days of the Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program, or DNAP.

"There would be no getting away from the long lines; that's a fact," he said, adding that he and DCCA had been preparing to make DNAP processing as quickly and as comfortably as possible.

Hunter is expecting about 12,000 households of the 14,000 on Saipan and Tinian to participate in the distributions this weekend.

"We are trying to make people lining up as comfortable as possible. We have got as many people possible to help carry out this process," he said, adding that the department has been preparing for the distributions since Monday.

"We have over 80 people recruited and being oriented [for the distributions] and we have contracted benches, tents, water, and a lot of other stuff so that hopefully it is as comfortable as we can make it," he said, adding that the first couple days of the seven-day distribution period is expected to be "crazy."

The Office of the Governor announced last Nov. 10, 2018, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service approved Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request to activate monies initially reserved for the Nutritional Assistance Program, or food stamps, for emergency food assistance for victims of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The office estimates over $8.5 million in total disaster benefits cost.

The Torres administration noted that DNAP is available to households on Saipan and Tinian, regardless of citizenship.

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Rasa honored as he is laid to rest

JON PEREZ

Police officers escort the remains of former speaker Oscar C. Rasa to the cemetery in last Monday's funeral rites at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) remembers former House speaker Oscar C. Rasa for championing people's rights, even if not everyone agreed with him. Rasa, 71, died on Nov. 11.

Rasa was laid to rest last Monday at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery after a Mass and public viewing in the nearby Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Palacios, who is the lieutenant governor-elect, said that people might have an ambivalent attitude toward Rasa but he is still a big loss to the CNMI. "We lost a very genuine individual, very intelligent person, and simple guy."

"A lot of people might dislike or love him, but we must appreciate Mr. Rasa. He doesn't hold back what he wants to say; he tells it as is. His passing is a big loss and, at the end of the day, the CNMI lost an individual that sacrificed a lot for the Commonwealth."

He added that he's known Rasa while he was growing up, the former speaker being one of the protégé's of his father, the late Dr. Francisco T. Palacios. "My father was a politician and I've come to respect him since he was one of my father's protégés."

"He was very bright, thoughtful, and an intelligent individual. He was like that in his younger years and as a part of the Covenant negotiating team. Yes, he was young but he expressed a lot of his reservations on some of the provisions in the Covenant."

Palacios said some of Rasa's opinions became a reality. "To the large extent, a lot of those reservations came to reality. He was very passionate for advocating local rights, native rights. He was a champion and a genuine individual."

"I had the opportunity, in my capacity as an elected official, to be able to spend quite a bit of time in the past few months with him. He's given me a lot of insights, a lot of advice, counseling, and encouragement to do good for the people."

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said that Rasa is a known constitutionalist who helped shape the CNMI. "It is a great loss to our Commonwealth. As we all know, he had served the CNMI for a long time. He was one of the people who helped the establishment of the Commonwealth. He [was] very knowledgeable on constitutional issues. Our deepest condolences to the family."

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), who is also a former speaker, said he learned a lot from the many conversations he had with Rasa. "I'm very saddened by the news. He was very knowledgeable and I learned so much from him."

"He was very intelligent, not only about the CNMI's political history but also the Constitution. I offer my condolences to the family and ask all of us to pay our respects."

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) also offered his condolences to the Rasa family. "My deepest condolences to Auntie Pat and the family during this time of bereavement. They are in my thoughts and prayers."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier directed all CNMI and U.S. flags be lowered to half-staff in honor of Rasa. The flags were raised to full staff a day after Rasa's interment.

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Immigration services for Yutu victims

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services offers immigration services that may help people affected by unforeseen circumstances, including Super Typhoon Yutu.

The following services may be available on a discretionary basis, only upon request. These services may include:

- changing a nonimmigrant status or extending a nonimmigrant stay for an individual currently in the United States;
- expedited processing of advance parole requests;
- expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate; and
- rescheduling interviews or biometrics appointments with USCIS.

Visit the Special Situations web page for additional information on services that may be available.

When making a request, please explain how Super Typhoon Yutu in the CNMI relates to the need for the requested relief.

To learn how to request these measures or see if an office is open, visit the USCIS Office Closings web page. If the super typhoon affected your InfoPass appointment, you can reschedule your appointment online. If you need additional help, visit the USCIS Contact Center web page for more information.

All Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, requirements remain in place. If the super typhoon affected you and your documents were lost, stolen, or damaged, review the list of Form I-9 acceptable documents and receipts for more information on how to complete the Form I-9. You may also visit I-9 Central for more information. ***(PR)***

FSM builds expertise in climate change, disaster management

POHNPEI—National practitioners in the Federated States of Micronesia working on the frontline of climate change and disaster management have completed a capacity building training course in Pohnpei, boosting their monitoring and evaluation skills and strengthening the nation's ability to meet future climate challenges.

The training brought together 22 participants from national government agencies, state government agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations

A joint initiative of the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management and the USAID Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change Project, the training was implemented by the Pacific Community with support from GIZ.

The innovative and practical approach of this training was welcomed by participants who noted the significant impact of the tools, knowledge and resources will have on their daily work.

"I enjoyed looking at the results framework and coming up with indicators for the outcomes", said Yota Oue, program manager for the National Ozone Unit, DECEM. "The training is very helpful and super relevant to my line of work, especially since M&E is really integral to the regulatory nature of what I do."

Similar sentiment was shared by executive director Andy George from the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization. "I've learn[ed] a lot about evaluating projects from beginning to end. I think that this is an important training and we should look into replicating it."

The strengthening of monitoring and evaluation of national, regional and global resilience systems and the associated capacities within FSM is essential to facilitate informed decisions on prioritization and resource allocation at the national and local levels. Reliable and up-to-date M&E information is also an invaluable tool for accessing and effectively managing climate change finances.

The training builds on existing activities supported by the USAID ISACC project in FSM, including the recent FSM Climate Change & Disaster Risk Finance Assessment, which will be finalized by the end of 2018. ***(SPC)***

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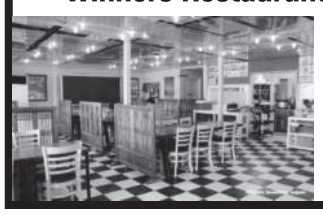

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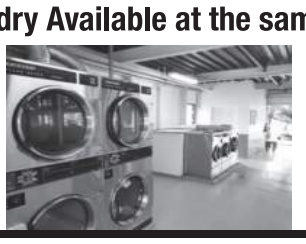

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Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds, through the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success (SPF PFS) grant for eligible organizations in the CNMI to apply. This project is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Details of the grant and funds available are listed below.

I. **Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships For Success (SPF PFS): FY2019 $425,000**
(Each applicant, with the exception of a previous SPF PFS sub grant recipient, is able to apply for a sub grant award of up to $40,000. A previous SPF PFS sub grant recipient is able to apply for a sub grant award of up to $100,000.)

The planning and implementation of this grant award will focus on four primary goals:

1. **Prevent or reduce consequences of underage drinking and adult problem drinking and drinking and driving with emphasis in persons ages 12-20**
2. **Reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse with emphasis on persons ages 12-25**
3. **Collaborate with other behavioral health prevention areas utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework**
4. **Evaluate all activities**

The SPF PFS provides awarded communities with the opportunity to build and/or strengthen an effective and sustainable evidence-based prevention program that is responsive to the needs of the CNMI community. Community programs are required to implement evidence-based prevention programs focused on the following priorities that have been determined by Community Guidance Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit:

1) **Underage Drinking and/or**
2) **Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse**

This grant award requires a Strategic Prevention Framework to help guide communities toward successful program management process following the five steps below:

1) Assessment: Accurately assess community problems, assets, and resources;
2) Capacity: Describe current capacity and/or plans to build capacity;
3) Planning: Develop a comprehensive Strategic Plan;
4) Implement: Identify the evidence-based program, policy, or practice to be implemented;
5) Evaluate: Process and impact evaluation through monitoring and documentation of program implementation.

In order to be eligible to apply, an applicant must be a non-profit organization or government agency with at least twenty-five active youth participants, have not been defunded as a SPF SIG and/or SPF PFS sub grant recipient, AND required to implement an evidence-based curriculum.

The Project Director will make the final recommendation in consultation and collaboration with the CGC Director on applications based off of proficiency areas aimed at sustaining substance abuse prevention outcomes. The grant application guidelines detail the information required.

Sub-Grant Application forms and guidelines may be obtained at the Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit Office at the CHCC: Community Guidance Center, conveniently located on the 2nd Floor of TSL Plaza (Beach Road, Garapan) or the Substance Abuse Prevention offices on Rota and Tinian.

All completed applications must be submitted to the CHCC: CGC Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit office on Saipan and the CGC personnel on Tinian and Rota no later than 3:30 p.m. on December 3, 2018.

For more information, please contact Ms. Kimberly S. Tudela at 323-6560 or kmstudela@gmail.com (Saipan); Mr. Keith Nabors, Prevention Coordinator (Tinian) at 433-6572 or tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com; or Ms. Benedicta San Nicolas, Behavioral Health Coordinator (Rota) at 532-9461 or benedicta.sannicolas@gmail.com.

/s/Esther L. Muna
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Opinion

Hafa Adai
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EDITORIAL

And now, a massacre at Mercy Hospital

This time the bloodshed that indelibly stains Chicago violated this city's first chartered hospital, a haven and healer that's given life for 166 years. We'll likely learn more in coming days about the why of this massacre on a Monday. For now, Mayor Rahm Emanuel's characterization will suffice: What took the lives of innocents at Mercy Hospital—one of them a Chicago police officer—is the face and the consequence of evil.

We strive when we write about incidents of slaughter here not to draw comparisons between them on such variables as the number of victims. A single killing is as tragic for one family as a weekend of double-digit deaths is for many other families. But when the violence punctures the sanctity of a hospital, Chicagoans should be especially hurt and outraged.

Sadly, there is recent if imprecise precedent for Monday's gunfire where health workers keep patients—and hope—alive: On a Sunday morning in May, Chicago paramedics were treating a patient in their ambulance at 68th Sreet and Damen Avenue when they heard a fusillade. One bullet—perhaps a stray round—slammed into the ambulance but didn't strike anyone. A few weeks earlier, two women were wounded in a drive-by shooting outside Mount Sinai Hospital's emergency room; paradoxically, they were part of a group visiting a patient who'd been shot earlier that day.

Monday's massacre began outside Mercy, sources told the Tribune, when a man confronted his girlfriend, possibly over a broken engagement. The man shot the woman several times and then, as she lay on the ground, continued firing. Next the shooter apparently entered the hospital, where he shot one police officer in the lobby and fired at one or more others. The mortally wounded officer was identified as Samuel Jimenez, who had been on the force since early 2017.

As in the ambulance and Mount Sinai cases, some of Monday's witnesses already were familiar with guns and violence. One man said he recognized the shooter's weapon as a 9 mm handgun. Another witness, able to estimate the number of rounds in a cartridge, compared Monday's carnage to other incidents. "I've heard shootings," said the man, Hector Avitia. "I've known people that have died in the neighborhood like that." A third witness, Erix Horton, said hospital employees had the presence of mind to recognize that an "active shooter" situation meant they needed to hide in a locked room. "A lot was going through my mind," Horton said. "Make it home to see my wife and my kids."

Dismaying situations, yes, but Chicago can't let itself turn oblivious or accepting. What occurred Monday is a horror like so many other horrors here. Each of them should make all of us redouble our efforts to find causes and cures.

The Mercy Hospital community will be a long time healing. Monday night, though, the lights of its windows were little beacons over Chicago's South Side. There were patients to treat. There were lives to save.

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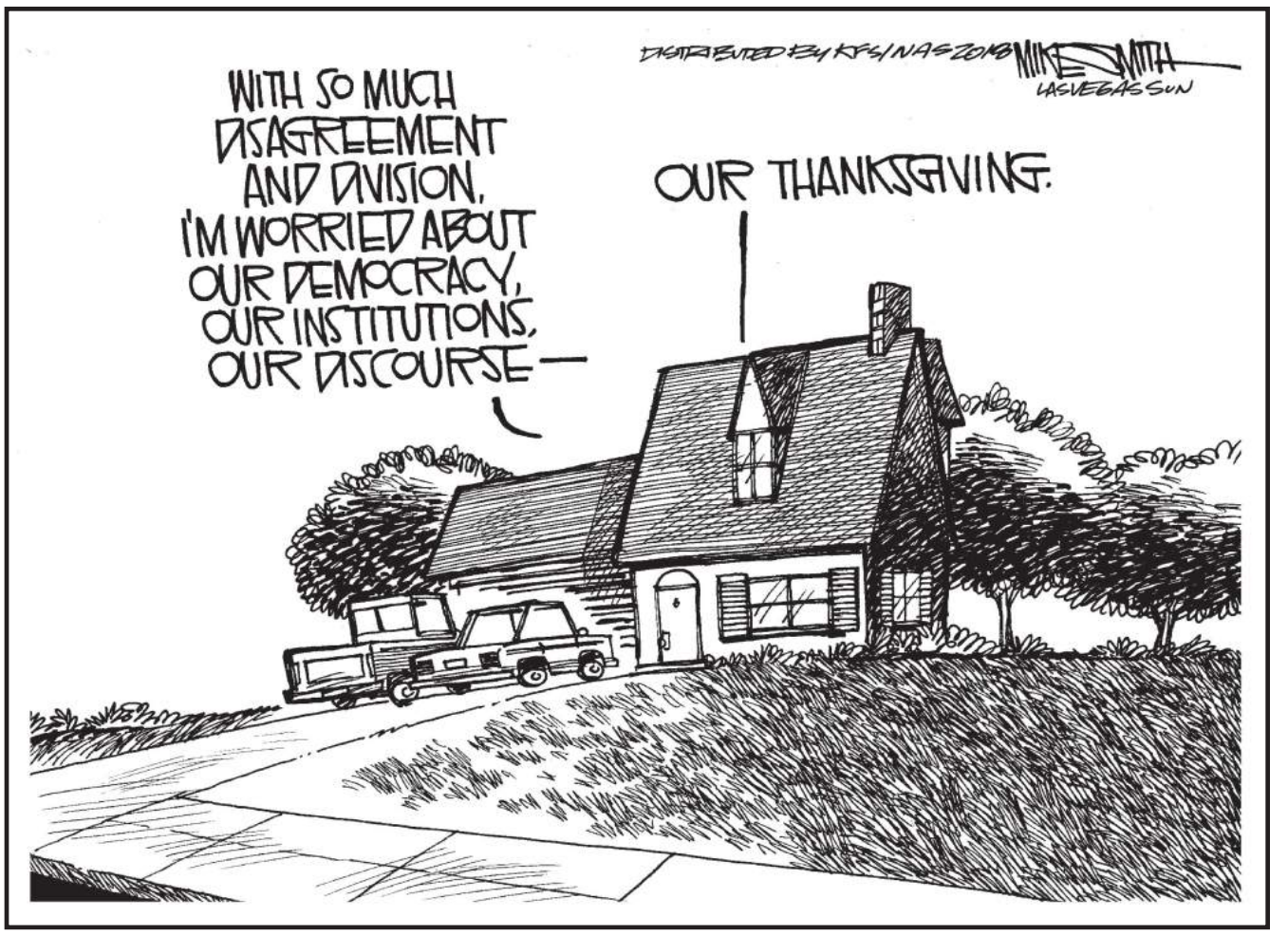
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Lessons learned from the debate over election irregularities

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg's new book, Suicide of the West*, is now available wherever books are sold. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by e-mail at goldbergcolumn@gmail.com, or via Twitter @JonahNRO.*

Now that all of the controversial elections, recounts and re-recounts are over, let us review some of our lessons learned.

Florida is the Jaguar of vote-counting, and I'm not referring to the animal or the Jacksonville NFL franchise. I mean the car. For decades, part of the "charm" of having a Jaguar was how often it broke down. (That's no longer the case.) It was the kind of conspicuous consumption that economist Thorstein Veblen used to write about, with owners bragging about how much they paid for repairs.

The spectacle of sweaty election officials poring over provisional ballots—18 years after the state became infamous for such things—has now cemented election incompetence into the montage of images we associate with the Sunshine State: beaches, rocket launches, Mickey Mouse and the human menagerie of freaks, weirdos, moperers, villains and perverts that fall under the omnibus internet meme "Florida Man."

We learned (relearned, actually) that a lot of people are very, very tense about politics and quick to jump the gun. President Trump, no doubt a bit insecure that his "red wave" failed to materialize, immediately claimed that voter fraud was rampant and that elections in Arizona and Florida were being "stolen." Florida Gov. Rick Scott followed Trump's lead and made similar allegations, as did a host of Republican pundits.

Meanwhile, in Georgia, Democrats led by Stacey Abrams and Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, as well as a chorus of liberal pundits, insisted that the governor's race there had been "stolen" by Georgia's Republican secretary of state (and gubernatorial candidate), Brian Kemp.

We also learned that the actual evidence for all of these allegations fell far short of the rhetoric.

There were indeed sketchy irregularities in Florida, but none that came close to robbing Scott of his 12,000-vote lead. Brenda Snipes, Broward County's supervisor of elections, had a 15-year record of incompetence that at times seemed very difficult to distinguish from partisan skulduggery. She finally resigned from her post this week.

But in Arizona, there is no evidence of wrongdoing, and the state GOP's refusal to go with Trump's talking points was an admirable example of Republican leaders, particularly Gov. Doug Ducey, bucking the partisan tide.

Georgia is a more controversial case, but as the National Review's Rich Lowry documents, the evidence of theft through voter suppression isn't there either, no matter how many Twitter memes say otherwise. Kemp's decision not to resign from his job overseeing elections may have been bad PR, but that's the way the law works in Georgia.

Kemp had run for re-election twice before without stepping aside, without any improprieties—as had Democrats in that position in the past. Allegations that he closed polling sites in black neighborhoods leave out that those decisions were made locally. Likewise, claims that he purged black voters from the rolls hinge on a tendentious reading of a law—passed by a Democratic legislature and signed by a Democratic governor—requiring that the rolls be updated. Kemp enforced the law, he didn't undermine it.

The final lesson: There is a massive double standard in the national conversation when it comes to election results and irregularities.

When Republicans suggest Democrats are up to no good, it is universally decried as a paranoid, craven or "openly authoritarian" attempt to delegitimize an election. When Democrats suggest an election was stolen, it's a grave warning of a crisis that should require "international election monitors," in the words of Dan Rather.

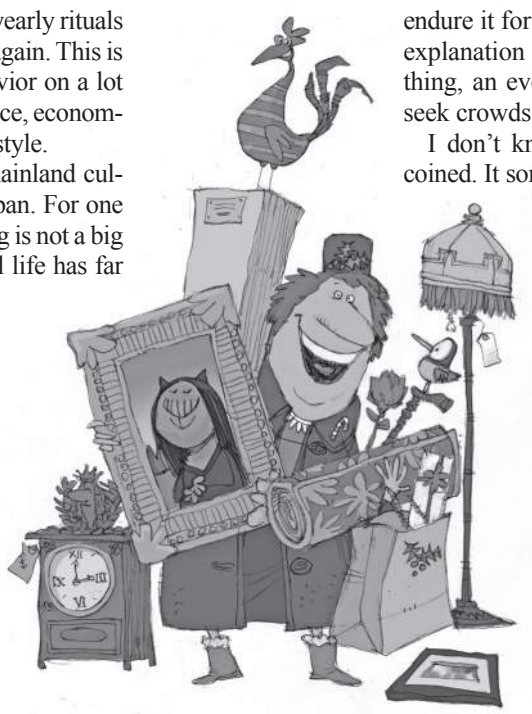
When Republicans graciously concede, as Rep. Martha McSally did in Arizona, it's an example of decency and civility. "I give McSally credit for a graceful concession. But let's be clear: It only stands out because of the moral sludge of Trumpism in which any show of grace or honorable conduct is shocking," tweeted Josh Marshall, the editor of the Talking Points Memo. "When you lose, you don't lie about it or attack the voting process. You concede & move on."

But when Florida Sen. Bill Nelson, a three-term Democrat, refused to concede and move on, insisting that Scott was trying to steal victory, liberals didn't call him a sore loser. And when Abrams refused to concede in Georgia and (still) refuses to say that Kemp is a legitimate governor, it's hailed as heroic speaking truth to power.

Such double standards are poisonous and contagious. Which is why you can be sure you'll hear even more of this in 2020—and not just from Donald Trump.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Same-same



The yearly ritual of analyzing yearly rituals is upon us. It's Black Friday again. This is a focal point of human behavior on a lot of fronts. It gets press in finance, economics, psychology, and as a matter of lifestyle.

Hyper-shopping is one vestige of mainland culture that never really took root on Saipan. For one thing, shopping for the sake of shopping is not a big practice with island residents. Tropical life has far better things to offer. As for the tourists, their slice of retail activity has its own dynamics.

But, worry not: The frenzy of Black Friday can be seen from any corner of the world because the international news media will not lack stories. It's mostly the same story every year, which isn't the fault of the media, but is just the nature of ritual.

So Black Friday this year, last year, and next year is "same-same but different; but still same."

My favorite Black Friday theme, the equivalent of the springtime photo of cherry blossoms in Kyoto, is the annual image of the masses fighting tooth and nail for their coveted big-screen TVs. I archive one such picture every year.

I've walked through stores with retailing pros who have explained some of the psychology and strategy behind the layouts and displays. It's fascinating. There's an entire universe of experts lurking behind this visible layer of retail commerce.

Still, I never thought to ask an expert whether the masses of Black Friday are attracted to the mass activity, or if they merely endure it for the sake of the sales. I suspect the first explanation is correct, because Black Friday is a thing, an event, like a baseball game, and crowds seek crowds.

I don't know when the term Black Friday was coined. It sort of snuck up on me. But I did notice, a matter of years ago, when Cyber Monday became a thing.

That should be more my speed, but I usually don't think about it until the following Wednesday, at which point, of course, it's too late. It makes me feel old-school. I remember when wrist watches didn't have operating systems, books were made of paper, and cigarettes didn't have batteries.

In fact I'll admit I'm a lousy shopper. To quote my fictional hero, Travis McGee, a self-described beach bum: "I am not properly acquisitive." Hey, the holidays are here, so it's time to slow down and enjoy life. Which means we should enjoy another McGee quote.

So here we go: 'I work when the money gets low. Otherwise I enjoy my retirement. I'm taking it in installments, while I'm young enough to enjoy it."

I guess we could finger-wag to McGee about the magic of compounding returns in tax-deferred pension schemes, but the author behind the McGee series, John D. MacDonald, was a Harvard M.B.A. and WWII veteran. Perhaps MacDonald knew that youth has value that no 10-key calculator could ever reckon.

It's not recapturable value, either. You can't buy back your youth.

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Ah, but you can rent. And, as a matter of fact, it has been reported (Priceonomics.com) that the peak season for Botox injections (typically used to temporarily remove wrinkles from the face) is the Thanksgiving-Christmas period.

With that fact in mind, if any readers are headed to Versailles or Monte Carlo during the holidays, perhaps to secure your future as a trophy spouse, look at the backs of the hands. Aging is harder to conceal there. Oh, and don't forget to send a me postcard, though if you're feeling really flush, let's not forget that this is gift season; a nice pair of gloves is always appreciated.

Back on the Black Friday beat, the Forbes website (Forbes.com) has a whole slew of articles covering the various sales at a number of U.S. retailers.

The coverage includes links to images of Black Friday advertisements that were scanned from print ads. I like looking at ads just to study their techniques; this is the big league of communications. Depending on the retailer, some of these ads are on the order of 30, 40, or even 60-plus pages. It looks to me like print advertising is alive and well, even in this age of watches with operating systems.

So here's to Black Friday. Same-same, but different; but still same!

Mercy Hospital shooting and the NRA's cynical cry of 'Stay in your lane'

Before the deadly shooting at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center is forgotten, before it fades into the list of routine, senseless outbursts of gun violence in America, remember this: Less than two weeks ago, the National Rifle Association told doctors who support tougher regulations on gun sales and a ban on semiautomatic firearms to "stay in their lane."

Emergency room doctor Tamara O'Neal was shot dead by her ex-fiancee Monday outside Mercy Hospital. The shooter then went inside the hospital where he shot and killed Chicago police Officer Samuel Jimenez and first-year pharmacy resident Dayna Less. Police said the shooter, who was found dead in the hospital, had a valid firearm owner's identification card and a concealed carry license and, over the last five years, legally bought at least four guns.

Northwestern Memorial Hospital surgeon Emil Fernando summed things up in a tweet: "Lemme guess, @NRA, still not "our lane" even when it happens in our own hospitals? I don't think so."

It's hard to stay in a lane and keep quiet about guns when guns keep crossing into all our lanes.

Hospitals. Bars. Churches. Elementary schools. Universities. Movie theaters. Nightclubs. Outdoor concert venues. Newsrooms. Synagogues.

These deaths at Mercy Hospital, for all but the family and friends of the victims, will be forgotten before Black Friday, soon to be replaced by another shooter in another lane. Maybe next will be a shopping mall. Or a busy Main Street.

That's not wishing for another tragedy. That's just a pragmatic prediction of what comes next in a violent country that, thanks to "Stay in your lane!"-howling groups like the NRA, can't muster the political will to do a blessed thing about a glaringly obvious epidemic.

A position paper in the Annals of Internal Medicine published Oct. 30 said: "Firearm violence continues to be a public health crisis in the United States that requires the nation's immediate attention." It concluded that there is a "need for a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to reducing firearm violence that is consistent with the Second Amendment."

That paper is both well-researched and reasonable.

The NRA responded to that paper on Nov. 7 by tweeting: "Someone should tell self-important anti-gun doctors to stay in their lane. Half of the articles in Annals of Internal Medicine are pushing for gun control. Most upsetting, however, the medical community seems to have consulted NO ONE but themselves."

Just hours after that tweet was sent, a gunman killed 12 people at a bar in California.

This is madness.

Telling physicians tasked with saving the people who get blown apart by gunfire in this country to "stay in their lane" is no different than blaming a hospital or a church or a movie theater for being a gun-free zone. It's no different than the "good guy with a gun" canard. (Juan Lopez had a concealed-carry permit—how do we know when a good guy with a gun will transform into a bad guy with a gun?) It's no different than claiming, falsely, that Chicago has the toughest gun-control laws in the country while ignoring how easy it is to get firearms in neighboring states.

The NRA already told people like Dr. O'Neal that they should stay in their lane when it comes to gun violence. Go ahead and tell that to her grieving family.

Tell that to Chicago emergency room surgeon John Purakal, who tweeted about O'Neal: "I knew her, trained with her, saved lives with her and tonight, tried to save her life. Tonight, I broke down in front of my coworkers when we lost her, and tonight I held hands with her mother in prayer. Tonight, we lost a beautiful, resilient, passionate doc. Keep singing, TO."

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune *columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

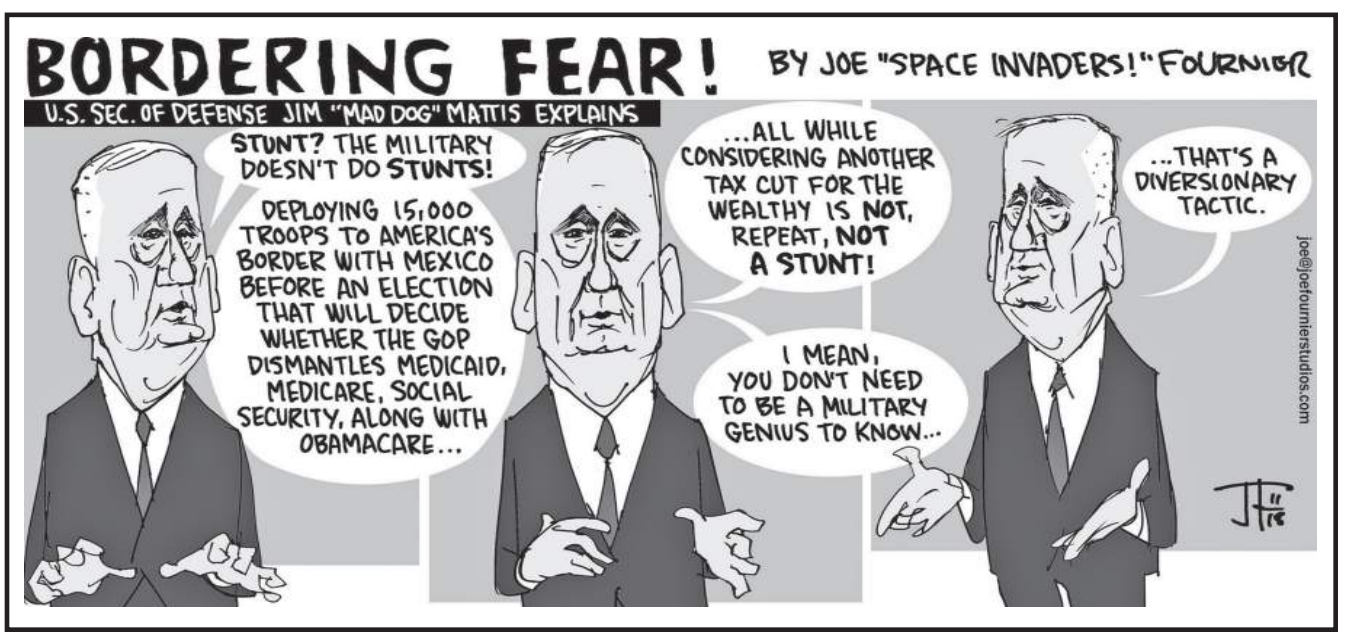
Would the NRA advise the wife and three young children of Officer Jimenez, who died while saving people from a bad guy with a gun, to stay in their lanes?

Should the loved ones of Less, the pharmacy resident who was getting off an elevator, stay in their lanes?

No way.

We should all speak up, in booming voices, angrily and without pause, until the money-lined pockets of the NRA's politicians start quivering from the sound.

And what we should shout is this: "If you want a lane to stay in, get guns out of ours."

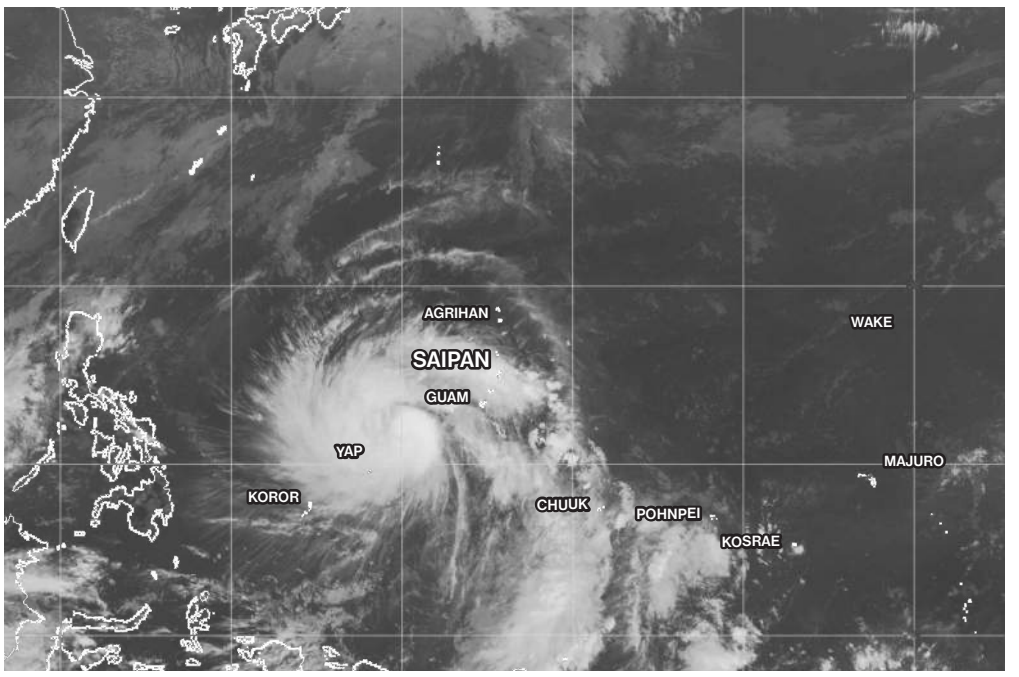

BORDERING FEAR!
BY JOE "SPACE INVADERS!" FOURNIER
U.S. SEC. OF DEFENSE JIM "MAD DOG" MATTIS EXPLAINS
STUNT? THE MILITARY DOESN'T DO STUNTS!
DEPLOYING 15,000 TROOPS TO AMERICA'S BORDER WITH MEXICO BEFORE AN ELECTION THAT WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE GOP DISMANTLES MEDICAID, MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY, ALONG WITH OBAMACARE...
...ALL WHILE CONSIDERING ANOTHER TAX CUT FOR THE WEALTHY IS NOT, REPEAT, NOT A STUNT!
I MEAN, YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A MILITARY GENIUS TO KNOW...
...THAT'S A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC.
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:52 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows Typhoon Man-yi passing by south of Guam, and a band of showers and thunderstorms is across the Mariana Islands. The buoys reveal combined seas of 9 to 11 feet composed mainly of wind waves and swell from the typhoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	46° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 68°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 71°
London	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Rain	59° / 52°
Miami	Thunderstorms	79° / 72°
New York	Sunny	32° / 22°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 43°
Paris	Sunny	48° / 36°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 37°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 45°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	56° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°
Tokyo	Showers	50° / 43°
Washington, DC	Sunny	34° / 25°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
01:29 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.24
08:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94
1:43 PM	LOW TIDE	0.93
7:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:01 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	-	7:01 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	-	8:02 AM	7:44 PM
Monday	-	9:03 AM	8:44 PM
Tuesday	-	10:03 AM	9:46 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – *temporarily suspended*

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) – *resume from Nov 28*

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – *resume from Nov 27*

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4 *resume from Nov 28*
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7 *resume from Nov 22*
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – *temporarily suspended*

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily *resume from Nov 27*

Temporarily suspended:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 28*

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 26*

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN – *resume from Nov 27*

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7 *resume from Nov 28*
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7 *resume from Nov 22*
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 *resume from Nov 22*
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Black Friday sale today

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The most anticipated sale of the year is here!

Black Friday happens today and it officially begins the Christmas season, even here in typhoon-ravaged CNMI.

Town House wants to rebuild with the community and knows what they currently need in their homes. Their sofa sale is on with new and undamaged pieces that will surely make your house a home again. Visit their new location at the old Blockbuster space in Chalan Kanoa. For more information, call (670) 584-0469

Triple J Truckload Saipan opened its doors early this week—starting Wednesday—to accommodate customers with their shopping needs. It is open today, from 11am to 8pm. It will also be open on Saturday, from 9am to 8pm, and on Sunday, from 11am to 6pm.

Triple J general manager Jay Santos said that this is an exciting time for them. "I feel that our holiday inventory for this year is the best yet. We went on buying trips over the summer, met with current and new vendors, and we are bringing a lot of variety in toys and gift ideas for the whole family."

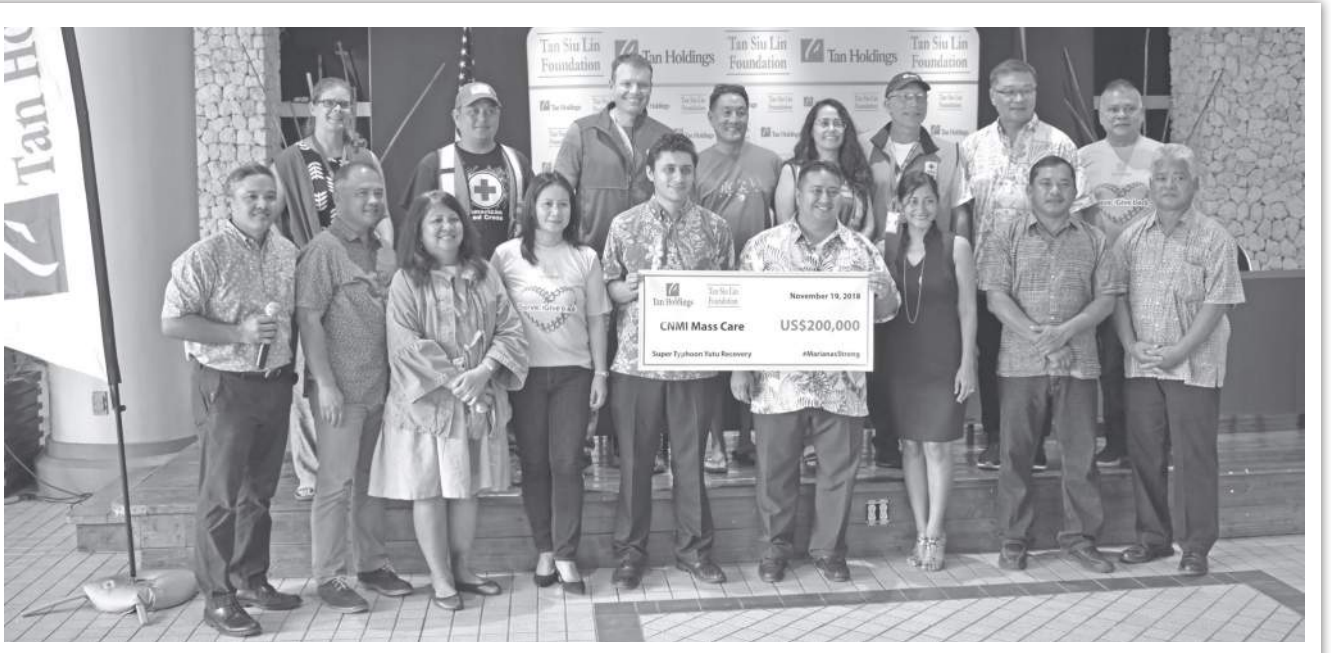
"It's been the goal of Mr. Bob Jones, owner of Triple J, to provide savings to the community. I'm really happy that we have achieved that goal and we are going to continue to provide savings to the community as long as we are open," he added.

Joeten Shopping Center invites everyone to see the best items and deals in their Black Friday Sale today. For more information, call Joeten Susupe at (670) 234-6446, Joeten Dandan at (670) 235-6016, Hafa Adai Shopping Center at (670) 234-7596, and Joeten Kagman at (670)256-6441

The Caronel Watch Center in Garapan offers 15 percent off on regular items and additional 10 percent off on clearance items this Black Friday. For more information, call (670) 233-4422

Black Friday is a Red Friday at Docomo Pacific. Buy new Samsung phones such as Samsung S9+, Samsung S9, and Samsung Note 9 and get one of any of these three cool gadgets—a Samsung 7" Tab A, Samsung Gear Fit 2 PRO, or a Samsung Wireless Charger. Their Red Friday stores in Gualo Rai, Tinian, and Rota opens at 8am. For more information, call 488-CARE or visit docomopacific.com

IT&E gives you the chance to own a Samsung Galaxy Note 9 for only $169 and experience their unlimited 4G LITE Freedom plan where monthly rate is slashed from $88 to just $80 a month! For more information, call (670) 682-4483.



DONATION TO CNMI MASS CARE KEVIN CALIBO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth from right, poses with CNMI Mass Care official Matt Deleon Guerrero, fifth from left, Tan Siu Lin Foundation general manager Merlie Tolentino, fourth from left, first lady Diann Torres, third from right, House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan, second from right, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, rightmost, TansHoldings president Jerry Tan, and TanHoldings senior vice president and Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago in last Monday's presentation of a TaHoldings donation of $200,000 to CNMI Mass Care at the Kanoa Resort lobby. TanHoldings and TSL Foundation donated a total of $1 million for Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1

Restoration of Electric Power Distribution System on Saipan Following Super Typhoon Yutu

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors to design, restore and commission (including without limitation all design, engineering, supervision, materials procurement and mobilization, installation, testing, commissioning and handover) of its power distribution system on Saipan as more fully described in the Statement of Work.

The solicitation seeks proposals from legally recognized business entities authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (or which will be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth before execution of the agreement) to restore and rebuild its electric power distribution grid on Saipan.

The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided emailed to the interested parties upon request, or may be downloaded fromwww.cucgov.org/procurement/available-bids-and-rfp/. Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **November 27, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A site survey of the affected areas by Prospective Proposers is highly recommended. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions and do their own preliminary assessments prior to submitting the proposal. A site survey of affected areas will be provided upon request to CUC, Power T&D Division. Please email Power Division Manager, Lee Lieto via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org for scheduling.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-007, REV.1 – RESTORATION OF ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON SAIPAN FOLLOWING SUPER TYPHOON YUTU"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than November 30, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due in whole or in part to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under any anticipated contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including without limitation any and all excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws. In particular, Contractors will be required to execute a contract which contains required provisions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.326 and which are set forth in Exhibit D to the Contract which is included the RFP package.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

Proposers are advised that this project is being procured as an emergency procurement under the authority of the Hon. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pursuant to 1 CMC §20144 (c) and the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and that ordinary procurement regulations do not apply. Time is of the essence in order to restore power to the people of Saipan. As such, no protests will be entertained.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-006

KANAT TABLA ROAD, FLOOD CONTROL & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Kanat Tabla Road, Flood Control & Drainage Improvements**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **November 23, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 11, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 19, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time December 27, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, December 27, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 27, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **January 8, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, January 11, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on December 27, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Three Hundred (300) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

Fair weather, falling gas prices help Thanksgiving travelers

Mild weather and falling gasoline prices are helping Thanksgiving travelers get where they're going while saving a few bucks.

Airports around the country were busy Wednesday, leading to about 2,700 delayed flights by early evening on the East Coast. Only about 100 flights were canceled, however, with nearly half of those in San Francisco, according to tracking service FlightAware.

"It has been a good day so far. The weather has been very cooperative," said American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein. "It's busy, but this Sunday and Monday will be busier travel days for us."

The military again opened some of its airspace to airline flights during the holiday-travel period—last Saturday through Wednesday, and again the upcoming Saturday through Monday. The practice began about a decade ago. A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said 39,000 flights took advantage of the extra airspace last year.

Holiday revelers traveling by car were able to take advantage of a big decline in gasoline prices caused by lower oil prices. The nationwide average pump price on Wednesday was $2.60 a gallon, down 25 cents from a month ago.

GasBuddy, a price-comparison site, said prices were under $2 a gallon in nine states, with several others hovering just above that mark.

"We will see the national average go lower because there are still drops in the pipeline," said GasBuddy analyst Patrick DeHaan. He estimated that U.S. motorists are spending $100 million less each day on gasoline than they were a month ago.

AAA is forecasting the busiest Thanksgiving travel period since 2005. Most people who will travel at least 50 miles from home are going by car, according to the auto club. AAA spokesman Robert Sinclair credited a strong economy and rising consumer confidence, "and when we have a little time built into our schedules, we take advantage of it."

Much of the country was blessed with mild weather, but that was expected to change in some areas. Rain was moving in along the West Coast, contributing to delays in places including San Francisco, where the FAA said arriving flights were running nearly two hours late on average.

In the Northeast, frigid temperatures were forecast for Thanksgiving Day, although the holiday itself is traditionally a light travel day.

Aside from the weather, American Airlines airport kiosks were knocked offline briefly on Wednesday morning. The airline said no flights were delayed because of the problem, which appeared to be fixed by midday.

The day before Thanksgiving was a more difficult travel day in the past. Many Americans who travel over the holiday now start earlier and return later, spreading crowds over several days.

The busiest day ever for Transportation Security Administration airport screeners was the Sunday after Thanksgiving in 2004, but seven of the top 10 days occurred during summer, including five days this past June. ***(AP)***

British PM hails Brexit progress, but still no breakthrough

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Theresa May said Wednesday that she has made fresh progress in Brexit talks at a meeting with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, as negotiators try to pin down an agreement that EU leaders can rubber-stamp this weekend.

The U.K. and the European Union agreed last week on a 585-page document sealing the terms of Britain's departure, but are still working to nail down a separate political declaration on their future relations after Brexit on March 29.

"Further progress has been made," May said in a brief statement after her meeting in Brussels with Juncker, but she added that "there are some further issues that need resolution."

May said the two sides have "given sufficient direction to our negotiators. I hope to be able to resolve the remaining issues, and that work will start immediately."

The meeting with Juncker lasted just over 90 minutes. May said she will return to Brussels on Saturday for more talks, including with the Commission President, "to discuss how we can bring to a conclusion this process and bring it to a conclusion in the interests for all our people."

An EU summit is planned for Sunday, but May shed no light on whether it will still go ahead.

As wrangling continued over issues including Gibraltar and fishing rights, European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said Wednesday that the text on future relations was "not there yet."

He said diplomats would meet Friday to prepare Sunday's summit, and "they will need to see a final text before then."

"The Commission stands ready to consider the text and take any action at any time," he said.

At home, May is under intense pressure from pro-Brexit and pro-EU British lawmakers, with large numbers on both sides of the debate opposing the divorce deal. Brexiteers think it will leave the U.K. tied too closely to EU rules, while pro-Europeans say it will erect new barriers between Britain and the bloc—its neighbor and biggest trading partner.

Retailers aim to pick up business from defunct, dying rivals

NEW YORK (AP)—Toys R Us and Bon-Ton may be gone but they haven't been forgotten.

Companies like Target and online mattress company Casper are creating playbooks to pick up market share that those and other defunct or dying retailers left behind.

Casper, for instance, is teaming up with department stores like Nordstrom to introduce pop-up mattress shops in areas where Mattress Firm, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in October, had locations. And Kohl's has been mapping out where retailers like Bon-Ton and Sears shuttered stores so it can target those customers with specific ads.

Kohl's is also adding more beauty products, which had been an area of expertise for Bon-Ton, the York, Pennsylvania-based department store chain that closed the last of its stores in August. Kohl's believes one-third of its store base is benefiting from department store closings, up from one quarter a year ago.

Target CEO Brian Cornell estimated up to $100 billion in market share that's now up for grabs—about double what he foresaw just a year ago. In response, the company is accelerating its store remodels in areas where bankrupt retailers once had stores. Target has devoted extra space at 500 of its stores for bigger toys like electric cars, playhouses and musical instruments as well as adding nearly 200 more products. About half of those locations are about five miles from former Toys R Us stores.

"We regularly look at retailers on the Moody's credit watch list," Cornell told reporters last month. "We think about strategies market by market."

In 2018, there have been roughly 30 retailers that have filed for bankruptcy, including household names like Sears Holdings Corp., Mattress Firm, and David's Bridal. That compares with 41 last year—the highest since 2011, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence, a research firm. Both Toys R Us and Bon-Ton liquidated this past summer just months after trying to reorganize in bankruptcy court.

In 2008, 440 retailers filed for bankruptcy, the highest number since S&P started tracking the data.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

November 23, 2018

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. DFS, Saipan Limited	11/01/2018 SMS-90-X-46, Amendment 2019-1	Facade Renovation	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved, 11/16/2018
2. Pride Keen Limited	11/14/2018 SEP-2019-X-007	Emergency Repair of Grounded Vessel	Micro Beach, Saipan	Emergency/ Temporary	Approved, 11/15/2018*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. Public attendance is welcome. The order of business of the Board, unless changed by the majority vote of its members, shall be as follows:

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call

II. Election of Officers

III. A. Adoption of Agenda
   B. Adoption of Minutes – July 26, 2018 Annual Board Meeting

IV. Correspondence

V. Public Comments*

VI. Review of Contracts

VII. Management Reports
   A. Executive Director's Report
   B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
   C. Legal Counsel's Report

VIII. Old Business
   A. CUC-CPA Settlement Agreement
   B. CUC-CHCC Intergovernmental Net Metering Cooperative Agreement
   C. Employees' Survey

IX. New Business
   A. Quarterly Board Meetings
   B. Revised Telesource Change Order No. 5

X. Executive Session* * *

XI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Nation

Northern California rain hampers life for wildfire survivors

CHICO, Calif. (AP)—Amy Sheppard packs her belongings into a plastic garbage bag as rain drips around her, readying to move on from a field by a Walmart where thousands of evacuees had taken refuge from a deadly Northern California wildfire.

Sheppard, 38, her sister and niece, who is 1, are looking to move into a dry hotel after camping in the field for four days. They lost their home in Magalia and the jewelry-maker tears up as she thinks about what's next.

"This rain is making it so hard," she said.

Rain falling Wednesday in some areas of Northern California could help crews fighting a deadly wildfire. But it could also raise the risk of flash floods, complicate efforts to recover remains and make life even more difficult for people like Sheppard who have nowhere to go.

Heavier rain is expected later in the day in the Paradise burn area, which is about 140 miles (225 kilometers) north of San Francisco, where the Camp Fire has killed at least 83 people, including two victims who were found Wednesday in burned homes. The blaze also destroyed more than 13,000 homes.

"The rain is really a double-edged sword for this fire," said Rick Carhart, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. He said searchers have "been able to sift through this really fine ash and when rain gets onto that really fine ash, it turns it into sort of a muddy muck and makes it a lot more difficult."

Rain falling Wednesday in some areas of Northern California could aid crews fighting a deadly wildfire while raising the risk of flash floods and complicating efforts to recover the remains of those killed. (Nov. 21)

Farther south, residents of communities charred by a Los Angeles-area fire stacked sandbags as they prepared for possible downpours that threaten to unleash runoff from hillsides left barren by flames.

Residents were mindful of a disaster that struck less than a year ago when a downpour on a fresh burn scar sent home-smashing debris flows through Montecito, killing 21 people and leaving two missing.

The 151-square-mile (391-square-kilometer) Woolsey Fire in the Los Angeles area was almost entirely contained after three people were killed and more than 1,600 structures destroyed.

In Northern California, the wildfire that started two weeks ago has torched an area in Butte County about the size of Chicago—nearly 240 square miles (622 square kilometers)—and was 85 percent contained.

Roberts, Trump spar in extraordinary scrap over judges

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts clashed Wednesday in an extraordinary public dispute over the independence of America's judiciary, with Roberts bluntly rebuking the president for denouncing a judge who rejected his migrant asylum policy as an "Obama judge."

There's no such thing, Roberts declared in a strongly worded statement contradicting Trump and defending judicial independence. Never silent for long, Trump defended his own comment, tweeting defiantly, "Sorry Justice Roberts."

The pre-Thanksgiving dust-up was the first time that Roberts, the Republican-appointed leader of the federal judiciary, has offered even a hint of criticism of Trump, who has several times blasted federal judges who have ruled against him.

Before now, it has been highly unusual for a president to single out judges for personal criticism. And a chief justice's challenge to a president's comments is downright unprecedented in modern times.

It seemed a fight that Trump would relish but one that Roberts has taken pains to avoid. But with Roberts' court feeling the heat over the president's appointment of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Roberts and several of his colleagues have gone out of their way to rebut perceptions of the court as a political institution divided between five conservative Republicans and four liberal Democrats.

Trump's appointments to the Supreme Court and lower federal courts have themselves spurred charges that the courts are becoming more politicized. As the justice widely seen as closest to the court's middle, Roberts could determine the outcome of high-profile cases that split the court.

The new drama began with remarks Trump made Tuesday in which went after a judge who ruled against his migrant asylum order.

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. FERMINA A. SABLAN, Defendant.) **Civil Action No. 13-0036**) **[AMENDED] NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property entered in the above titled action on May 15, 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from Defendant Fermina A. Sablan, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **January 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 681-R-05 (formerly part of Lot 618-R-01, which was also known as Tract 21806, AH 127), Chugai, Rota, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 681 R 01, the original of which was recorded 09 JUN 1987 as Document No. 87-1957, at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the action sale:
a. to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: (670) 234-7859; Fax: (670) 234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 7th day of November, 2018.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
(as amended)
November 9, 2018

Due to the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was declared a major disaster by both CNMI Governor, Ralph Torres and the President of the United States, Donald Trump. In view of this declaration and in hopes to provide relief to CDA clients and debtors, the CDA Board of Directors, on October 30, 2018, approved loan payment deferment of four (4) months, from November 2018 to February 2019. No interest will accrue for the entire one-hundred twenty (120) day period. If borrowers and debtors choose to make payments during the loan deferment period, all payments will be applied to the principal loan balance. Additionally, for loans that are delinquent for more than thirty (30) days, this offer on loan payment deferment will not cure the delinquent amounts owed.

For questions, please contact us by phone, thru email, or visit our offices; contact information follows:

Saipan - CDA Building, Oleai
Tel. Nos.: 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
extensions 305, 307 & 309
Email: m.coleman@developcnmi.com

Tinian - Kings Building
San Jose Village, Tinian
Tel. No. 433-9203
Email: j.sablan@developcnmi.com

Rota - Seven Brothers Building
Songsong Village, Rota
Tel. No. 532-9408
Email: e.manglona@developcnmi.com

CDA encourages all its borrowers and debtors to avail of this offer. The Board of Directors, management and staff are hopeful that this offer will assist its borrowers and debtors recuperate during this difficult time.

/s/ Donnie P. Militante
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
(as amended)
November 9, 2018

PAYMENT RELIEF TO CDA TENANTS

On Tuesday, October 30, 2018, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) Board of Directors approved to grant payment relief to all the CDA Tenants; Saipan, Rota & Tinian, who are on the Lease-to-Own with Option to Purchase arrangement and also those who are leasing units at the CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan. Payment relief is for three (3) months for Saipan & Tinian beginning November 2018 up to January 2019. For Rota, one (1) month additional payment relief is granted. The previous relief for Rota due to Typhoon Mangkhut ends December 2018; therefore, payment relief is extended to January 2019.

For questions, please contact us by phone, thru email or visit our offices; contact information follows:

Saipan - CDA Building, Oleai
Tel. Nos.: 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 extension 310
Email: c.kintol@developcnmi.com

Tinian - Kings Building
San Jose Village, Tinian
Tel. No. 433-9203
Email: j.sablan@developcnmi.com

Rota - Seven Brothers Building
Songsong Village, Rota
Tel. No. 532-9408
Email: e.manglona@developcnmi.com

/s/ Donnie P. Militante
Acting Executive Director

VEHICLES FOR BID
"SOLD AS IS"

2017 Toyota Tacoma 4x4

2016 Hyundai Accent Sedan

Last day for bidding is December 14, 2018 at 3:00 pm. For more information, please call Loan Department at 235-6260 ext. 124 or 123. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

Bank of Saipan

Marianas Pride

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP19-GOV-027

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 31, 2018 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP IS DUE **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DECEMBER 07, 2018** TO **MS. GLENNA SP REYES**, VIA E-MAIL TO glenna.sp.reyes.ao@gmail.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES
GOVERNOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Asia

‘A case of misdirected adventure’

NEW DELHI (AP)—The first time American John Allen Chau visited the isolated island in the seas between India and Southeast Asia, he came bearing gifts that included a football and fish.

He interacted with some of the tribesmen—who survive by hunting, fishing and collecting wild plants and are known for attacking anyone who comes near with bows and arrows and spears—until they became angry and shot an arrow at him.

It struck a book Chau was carrying, which an acquaintance said was a Bible. The 26-year-old adventurer and Christian missionary then swam back to a boat of fishermen that was waiting at a safe distance.

That night, he wrote about his adventures and left his notes with the fishermen. He returned to North Sentinel Island the next day, on Nov. 16.

What happened then isn’t known, but on the morning of the following day, the fishermen watched from the boat as tribesmen dragged Chau’s body along the beach and buried his remains.

Dependera Pathak, director-general of police on India’s Andaman and Nicobar Islands, said Wednesday that the seven fishermen have been arrested for helping the American reach North Sentinel Island. Visits to the island are heavily restricted by the government, and officials were working with anthropologists to recover the body.

» Tribesmen kill American

“It was a case of misdirected adventure,” Pathak said.

Chau was apparently shot and killed by arrows, but the cause of death can’t be confirmed until his body is recovered, Pathak told The Associated Press.

In an Instagram post, his family said it was mourning him as a “beloved son, brother, uncle and best friend to us.” The family also said it forgave his killers and called for the release of those who assisted him in his quest to reach the island.

“He ventured out on his own free will and his local contacts need not be persecuted for his own actions,” the family said.

Authorities say Chau arrived in the area on Oct. 16 and stayed in a hotel while he prepared to travel to the island. It was not his first time in the region: he had visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 2015 and 2016. North Sentinel is part of the Andaman Islands and sits at the intersection of the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.

With help from a friend, Chau hired the seven fishermen for $325 to take him there on a boat, which also towed the kayak Chau used to reach the island the first time, Pathak said.

After the fishermen realized Chau had been killed, they left for Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, where they broke the news to Chau’s friend, who in turn notified his family, Pathak said.

Police surveyed the island by air on Tuesday, and a team of police and forest department officials used a coast guard boat to travel there Wednesday and another trip was planned Thursday. Police officer Vijay Singh said Thursday morning that police were exploring their options since they cannot go directly to the restricted area and confront the tribespeople.

Chau had wanted ever since high school to go to North Sentinel to share Jesus with the indigenous people, said Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Covenant Journey, a program that takes college students on a tour of Israel to affirm their Christian faith. Chau went through that program in 2015.

“He didn’t go there for just adventure. I have no question it was to bring the gospel of Jesus to them,” Staver said.

2 premiers and no government: Crisis confuses Sri Lankans

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Two men each claim to be the prime minister. Lawmakers are exchanging blows in Parliament. A former finance minister says the country is on the brink of an “economic anarchy.”

Welcome to Sri Lanka, where the political crisis is getting worse by the week.

The trouble started when President Maithripala Sirisena, fed up with disagreements with his prime minister over money, an alleged conspiracy plot and unresolved issues of wartime crimes against civilians, fired Ranil Wickremesinghe and his Cabinet and replaced them with a government headed by a popular former strongman, Mahinda Rajapaksa.

But lawmakers balked and twice passed a no-confidence motion. Sirisena, however, refuses to accept that his choice of prime minister has been defeated.

Jehan Perera, head of the local analyst group National Peace Council, said that the government appointed by the president can’t be called legal because Sirisena had not sought a parliamentary vote when he dismissed Wickremesinghe.

“It can be called illegitimate because provisions for a confidence vote in Parliament are being blocked by the president’s own party through their riotous behavior,” Perera said, referring to a brawl last week that was followed by another pandemonium in the chamber when Rajapaksa loyalists refused to let the speaker conduct proceedings.

Wickremesinghe says his dismissal is invalid because he still holds a majority in the 225-member Parliament. The dismissal is also disputed because of a latest constitutional change, which lawyers say has taken away presidential powers to dismiss the prime minister.

Despite all the drama and two rival prime ministers, life hasn’t collapsed—thanks to the efficient bureaucracy that keeps the wheels of administration turning.

Even though there is no Cabinet recognized by Parliament, and despite warnings by Wickremesinghe supporters that state officials should not take orders from an “illegal government” of Rajapaksa, bureaucrats continue to work with the president who is the chief executive and the ministers appointed by him, officials said on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media.

However, decisions regarding new projects or purchases involving large sums of money are on hold.

The absence of a recognized government has delayed the budget for 2019. Mangala Samaraweera, who was finance minister in Wickremesinghe’s Cabinet, said that there will be no legal way of spending money in the coming year without a parliament-approved budget.

Sri Lanka’s Constitution says that control over public finances lies with Parliament and no funds can be released without a warrant signed by the finance minister and approved by the legislature. That means all government payments starting from January can be deemed illegal, Samaraweera says.

Sri Lanka is on the brink of an “economic anarchy and chaos as never experienced before.”

World

Merkel rebuffs calls of German nationalists over migration pact

BERLIN (AP)—Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday rejected calls from nationalist lawmakers for Germany to drop its support for a U.N.-backed agreement on migration.

AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers a speech during the budget debate of the German federal parliament, Bundestag, at the Reichstag building in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018.

Several countries—including the United States, Hungary, Austria, Israel, Australia and Poland—have announced they won’t back the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, set to be approved next month in Marrakech, Morocco.

Speaking during parliament’s annual budget debate in Berlin, Merkel told lawmakers that the pact would ensure “reasonable conditions” elsewhere that already exist in Germany, such as the right for migrants to access health services and get financial support.

“That’s why it’s in our national interest that the conditions around the world, for refugees on the one hand and migrants on the other, are improved,” Merkel said.

Opposition to the pact has come mainly from the far-right Alternative for Germany party, but a number of lawmakers from Merkel’s own party have also begun to question the agreement.

Health Minister Jens Spahn called recently for a broader debate about the pact and, if necessary, for a delay in approving it. Spahn appears to be trailing other high-profile candidates in a bid to succeed Merkel as leader of her Christian Democratic Union party next month.

One of the leading contenders, Friedrich Merz, called Wednesday night for a clarification that the U.N. pact won’t create any new grounds for asylum “through the back door.” At an event in eastern Germany with the other candidates, Merz also advocated a wider discussion on how the right to asylum in Germany is defined.

Merkel, who has announced she won’t run for a fifth term in 2021, said the migration pact is an example of the way in which global problems can only be solved through international cooperation.

Amid a rise in nationalist sentiment around the world, Merkel has become one of the most vocal defenders of multilateralism, frequently noting that Germany owes its revival after World War II to institutions such as the European Union and United Nations.

Presenting her government’s 356 billion-euro ($407-billion) budget for 2019, Merkel cited plans to invest more in care for children and the elderly, improve integration of migrants, raise pension levels and boost renewable energy.

Interpol’s flaws exposed in US-Russia fight over presidency

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The U.S. won, Russia lost and Interpol narrowly escaped disaster—that’s the upshot of an unusually high-drama vote for the international police agency’s president, dominated by fears that Russia wants to turn Interpol into a tool to hunt down its enemies.

While rights groups and Kremlin critics celebrated the surprise victory of South Korean candidate Kim Jong Yang over his Russian rival, the vote exposed flaws within Interpol that won’t vanish overnight. Now the pressure is on Kim and Interpol’s day-to-day boss, Secretary-General Juergen Stock, to fix them.

The White House came out publicly against the candidacy of Kim’s Russian rival, Alexander Prokopchuk. After the election, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Kim “the right man to lead one of the world’s most critical law enforcement bodies in its mission to preserve the rule of law and make the world a safer place.”

For Interpol, the vote staved off possible collapse, after rumblings from some member countries about quitting the agency.

The vote shows that members “thought really hard about whether they want to back away from this institution or make sure it’s run properly and operate fairly,“said Jago Russell, chief of Fair Trials International, which has championed and monitored Interpol’s reform efforts.

Authoritarian governments have long sought to leverage Interpol’s reach—and notably its system of “red notices” that flag suspects for arrest wherever they go—for political ends. While it has tried to clean up this system, it remains vulnerable to pressure from powerful member states: Its last president vanished in China in a possible political purge, while Interpol quietly looked on.

Stock, the secretary general, acknowledged that “systems can be improved” but stressed that Interpol’s information-sharing systems have led to the arrest of 10,000 serious criminals so far this year. “It is fundamental to Interpol’s existence that we are neutral and that we are independent,” he insisted.

That was a central argument for the U.S. and governments in Europe and elsewhere who lobbied against Russian security service veteran Prokopchuk. The Western powers warned that a Russian victory would have led to further abuses of Interpol by the Kremlin, seeking to go after political opponents and fugitive dissidents.

Russia accused its critics of overly politicizing the vote and campaigning to discredit Prokopchuk, calling him a respected professional. Russian officials were subdued in their response to the vote, and it got only modest attention in the state-dominated media.

Science & Technology

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Don't be misled about 'Security Essentials'

Q I use the Windows Essentials program on my Windows 7 PC. But I've heard that Microsoft won't update its antivirus/Essentials program next year. Will I be safe if I keep using it?

A: Despite their sound-alike names, Microsoft's Windows Essentials and Security Essentials are two different programs.

Windows Essentials, now discontinued, included software for e-mail, texting and photo-sharing.

Microsoft Security Essentials (download it at tinyurl.com/n48uy93) is a free antivirus program that Microsoft will support for Windows 7 until January 2020. Even the outdated Windows XP and Vista versions of the program continue to get updates about new malware. (Windows 8 and 10 don't need Security Essentials; they have built-in antivirus protection.)

In addition to the name confusion, scammers try to confuse people about Security Essentials. Be wary of:

■ A fake Security Essentials program that, when installed, urges you to call an 800 number (see tinyurl.com/ydg7wahs). These messages typically display the sad-face emoji.

■ The bogus error message "Windows Security Essentials Have Detected Issue." It says your PC will stop working unless you call a fake "Windows Help Desk" (see tinyurl.com/yaek7jj2).

■ Any offer to sell you a "lifetime" version of Security Essentials that's better than the free one. There is no paid version.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I have two PCs that share one e-mail account. But sometimes a new e-mail will show up on one computer and not the other. How can I ensure that both computers get all the new e-mail?

A: The problem is most likely the result of using a POP (Post Office Protocol) e-mail account. By default, it deletes an e-mail message from your provider's mail server after one of your PCs has downloaded and read it. As a result, the second PC never sees that message.

Contact Sjoberg's Inc. in Thief River Falls, which runs Mncable.net, your e-mail provider. Ask for either a) an IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol) e-mail account that's designed to share messages among several devices or b) a settings change on your POP account so it won't delete an e-mail from the server until you tell it to. For more about POP and IMAP e-mail accounts, see my earlier columns (tinyurl.com/y8n46u4w and tinyurl.com/ybjmu7jf).

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I do a lot of genealogy research using the PC program Family Tree Maker version 16. But some of the program's functionality has disappeared, and the software company doesn't respond to my e-mails. What can I do?

A: Family Tree Maker version 16 is now 10 years old, and is no longer as useful as it was.

That's because Ancestry.com sold the program in 2016 to Software MacKiev. The new owner replaced the program's TreeSync feature (which synchronized the family tree data on your PC with records at Ancestry.com) with a different feature called FamilySync. The new syncing function is only available in latest version of the program, Family Tree Maker 2017.

Limiting screen time for your kid? It's harder than it looks

By MARTHA IRVINE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—It is Saturday morning, and 10-year-old Henry Hailey is up at the crack of dawn. Still in PJs, his microphone-equipped headphones glowing blue in the dim basement, he fixates on the popular online game "Fortnite" on a large screen.

"What?! Right as I was about to finish it, I died," he calls out disappointedly to his friend Gus, a fellow fifth-grader playing the game from his home just a few blocks away. "Dude, I should NOT have died."

The digital battles resume, and Henry's enthusiasm never wanes. Would he play all day if his parents let him? "Probably," he concedes with a slight grin.

But they do not. Like many other parents, the Haileys are on a reinvigorated mission to limit screen time for Henry and his 15-year-old brother, Everett. For some parents, it feels like an exercise in futility. They are busy, overwhelmed and tired of the fight against increasingly omnipresent screens.

In this Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, photo, Henry Hailey, 10, plays the online game Fortnite in the early morning hours in the basement of his Chicago home. AP

ON THE NET

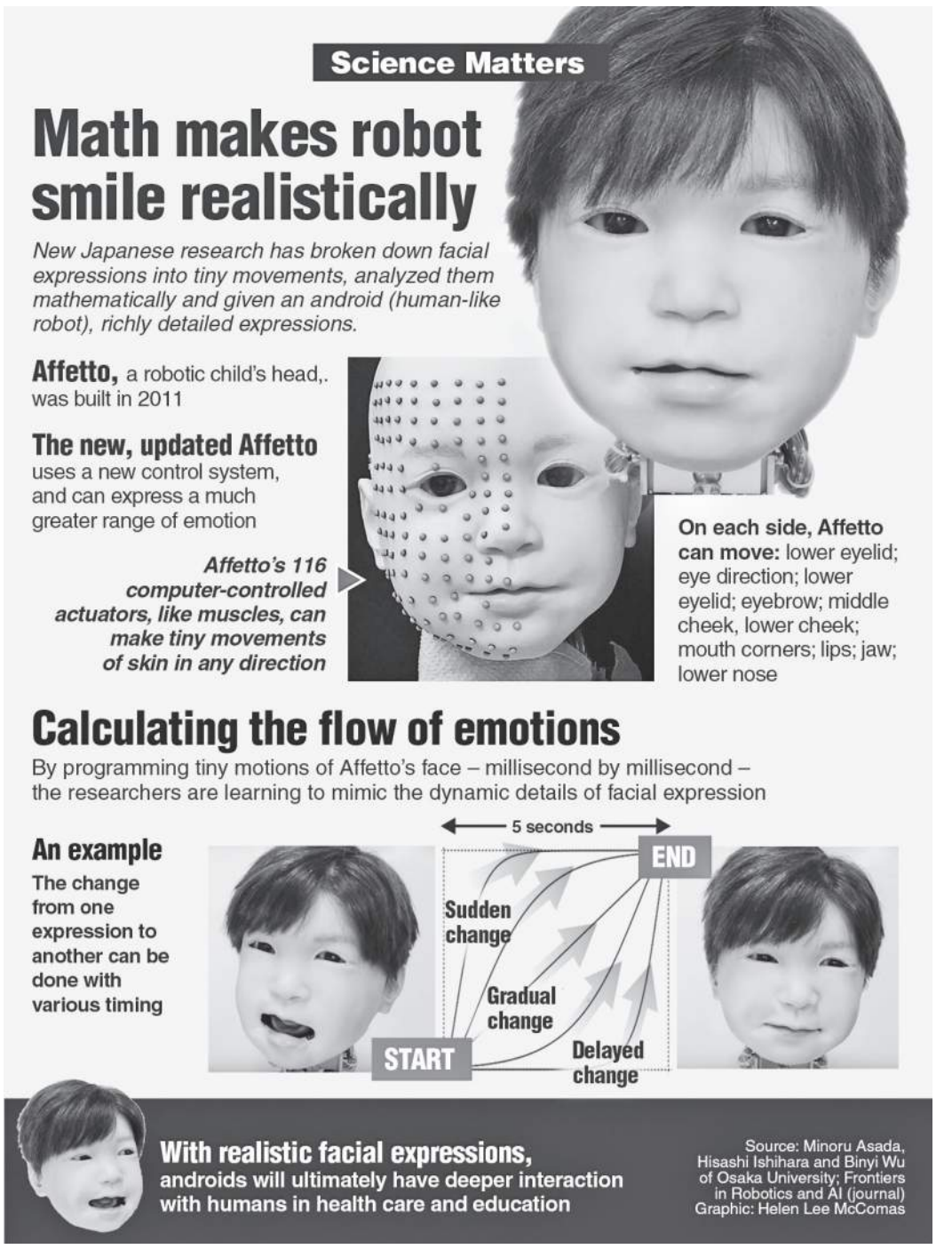
Common Sense Media report: https://bit.ly/2Oc7Nsg
WHO gaming disorder: https://bit.ly/2CDUqM1
Internet & Tech Addiction Anonymous: https://bit.ly/2FoAbb3
Wait Until 8th: https://bit.ly/2voBLPO
National Day of Unplugging: https://bit.ly/2EhAnYv

Getting Henry off screens has been a constant battle, his parents say. "Then once he's off, there's a lot of complaining and grumpiness for a while as we try to coax him to do something else," says his mom, Barb Hailey. "He's upset. Mom is a crank. What is it all for?"

The goal, experts say, should be to help kids learn to manage their own time as they get older and to stay physically active and socially connected as much offline as on. But parents in many American households are finding the power struggles—tantrums, withdrawal and, in some cases, even school and discipline problems—difficult, especially as more kids get access to screens at younger and younger ages.

A survey of 13- to 17-year-olds released this fall by the nonprofit Common Sense Media found that 95 percent of U.S. teens have their own mobile device. Seventy percent of them check social media several times a day, up from 34 percent in 2012. More than half say that their devices distract them from homework or the people they're with.

Some tech companies now at least acknowledge concerns about over-use and outright abuse of digital media. Apple instituted a "Screen Time" function in its latest iPhone software. It monitors app use and allows users—or their parents—to establish limits. Google For Families and Google Play, found on Android phones, and various independent apps also allow parents to monitor and set some restrictions.


Science Matters
Math makes robot smile realistically
New Japanese research has broken down facial expressions into tiny movements, analyzed them mathematically and given an android (human-like robot), richly detailed expressions.
Affetto, a robotic child's head,. was built in 2011
The new, updated Affetto uses a new control system, and can express a much greater range of emotion
Affetto's 116 computer-controlled actuators, like muscles, can make tiny movements of skin in any direction
On each side, Affetto can move: lower eyelid; eye direction; lower eyelid; eyebrow; middle cheek, lower cheek; mouth corners; lips; jaw; lower nose
Calculating the flow of emotions
By programming tiny motions of Affetto's face – millisecond by millisecond – the researchers are learning to mimic the dynamic details of facial expression
An example
The change from one expression to another can be done with various timing
5 seconds
END
Sudden change
Gradual change
Delayed change
START
With realistic facial expressions, androids will ultimately have deeper interaction with humans in health care and education
Source: Minoru Asada, Hisashi Ishihara and Binyi Wu of Osaka University; Frontiers in Robotics and AI (journal)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

Experimental plane flies silently, may lead to quiet drones

NEW YORK (AP)—A nearly silent, drone-sized aircraft has shown it can fly, thanks to a scientist who was inspired by watching "Star Trek" as a child.

With neither propellers nor jets, the airplane gets its thrust by applying a strong electric field to the air. That general idea has been demonstrated at science fairs, but the new work shows it can power a free-flying airplane.

So can people look forward to traveling in planes that are almost silent and emit no air pollution?

"Not anytime soon," says Steven Barrett of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who reported the results in a study released Wednesday by the journal Nature.

It's not clear whether the technology could work at such a large scale, he said in a telephone interview. And even if it can, it would take a few decades to develop such planes, he said.

Before that, the approach might be used in airplane-like drones that perform tasks like environmental monitoring and surveillance, he said. As drones become more common in urban skies, the lack of noise would be an advantage in making them less bothersome to people on the ground, he said.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Expert: Rare snake with 2 heads found in Virginia has died

WAYNESBORO, Va. (AP)—A wildlife expert says a rare, two-headed snake found several months ago in Virginia near the nation's capital has died. The Washington Post reports state herpetologist JD Kleopfer said in a Facebook post this week that the snake had died. He says it passed away peacefully last week for no apparent reason, and was discovered dead one morning. The Copperhead snake was found in a northern Virginia neighborhood in September. The Wildlife Center of Virginia previously said in a statement that an examination of the reptile found it had two tracheas and two esophagi, but shared one heart and a set of lungs. Biologists believe both heads were capable of biting and distributing venom.

Pancake stop snags inmate who fled jail with help from mom

NEWNAN, Ga. (AP)—An inmate fled a Georgia jail with the help of his mom and then went out for pancakes. News outlets report 27-year-old Joshua Gullatt and 54-year-old Kathy Lynn Pence were arrested Tuesday at an IHOP restaurant where they met with his children. Gullatt had slipped out a side door of the Heard County jail hours earlier. Investigators then listened to a phone call Gullatt made to Pence about the escape. Sheriff's Office Sgt. Dan Boswell says it just so happened that during that same phone call, Pence was pulled over for running a stop sign, so authorities identified her car, and tracked her phone to the Newnan IHOP.

Police capture 'unruly' and 'uncooperative' runaway pig

PALMYRA, Maine (AP)—Maine State Police say they helped corral a rather "unruly' pig on the run along Interstate 95. State police say in a Facebook post they were alerted to the "uncooperative" pig along the interstate in Palmyra on Wednesday. Police say the pig was spotted several times over the past week, but had managed to elude capture. Authorities say Cpt. Rick Moody and Trooper Jeremy Caron moved the pig off the highway with the help of a town animal control officer. When asked if police read the pig its Miranda rights, police jokingly responded "he waived the right to remain silent."

Sheriff buys 24K extra rolls of TP

GUNTERSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Officials in an Alabama county have a financial mess to wipe up after the sheriff's department mistakenly ordered 24,000 extra rolls of toilet paper. WAFF-TV reports the Marshall County Sheriff's Office mistakenly spent $22,000 on toilet paper and another $9,000 for 450 cases of trash bags. That's a big problem, because its entire budget for janitorial supplies for next year is only $15,000. County commissioners have negotiated a bill of more than $30,000 down by about half, but there's another problem: Storing an extra two years' worth of toilet paper. While the Sheriff's Department isn't commenting, Commission Chairman James Hutcheson says workers realized the mistake when a notice came in from the vendor.

Stranded camel entertains motorists

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The surprisingly powerful winter storm that swept across Pennsylvania brought some surprising sights with it, including a camel stranded along a snowy roadway. Motorists traveling about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Philadelphia started tweeting about the camel and posted video on social media. An organization called Jewish Philly says it was their camel named Einstein. He was on his way to the group's event at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center when the vehicle he was traveling in got stuck. Jewish Philly later tweeted Einstein's handler decided it was best for the camel to head home after his snow adventures, so he returned to Peaceable Kingdom Petting Zoo.

Wildlife officials seize mountain lion kitten fed bratwurst

WALSENBURG, Colo. (AP)—Wildlife officials who seized a mountain lion kitten from a southern Colorado home say the feline fell ill after the residents fed it bratwurst. Travis Sauder with Colorado Parks and Wildlife says the kitten appeared to be in good health otherwise and was sent to a wildlife rehabilitation center Tuesday. The Walsenburg residents posted photos on social media Monday showing the kitten in a cage and describing how they found it in a snowbank after a snowplow passed by. They also said they were allowing it to "thaw out." Sauder says residents should leave wildlife alone and that mountain lions can handle cold weather. The kitten, which is only a few months old, was kept too long to be returned to the area to be reunited with its mother.

Tiny Rhode Island polling place saw 1 voter after all

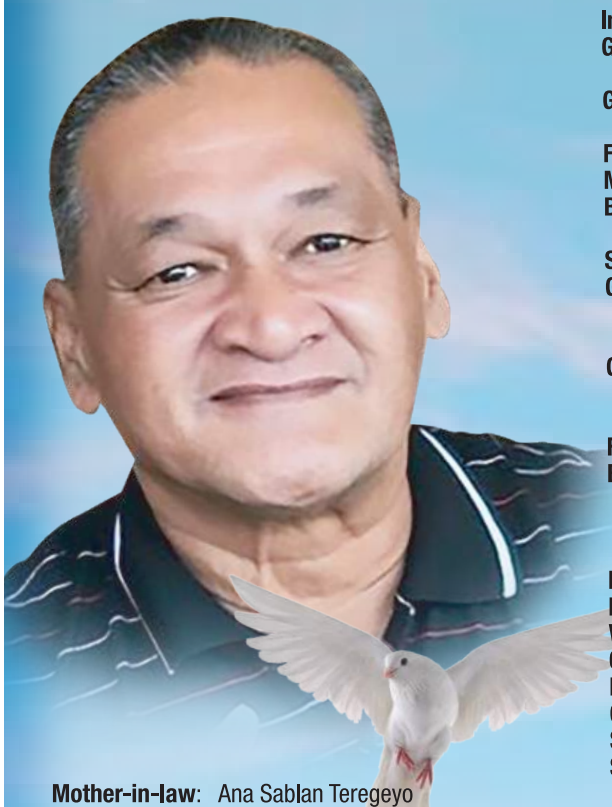
PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A polling place that Rhode Island elections officials initially said did not get a single voter during the midterm elections did get one voter after all. Precinct 2807 in Providence has just 14 registered voters. The state Board of Elections website for days showed that none of them cast a ballot Nov. 6. But a city spokesman tells the Providence Journal the polling station warden was in the process of shutting down the machine when a voter showed. As happens with all votes not counted by a machine, the ballot was placed in an envelope and delivered to the Board of Elections to be manually counted. That lone voter chose all Democrats and approved all three statewide ballot questions. Four people cast ballots in the precinct in the 2016 presidential election.

Breckenridge, Colorado, removing divisive giant wooden troll

BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. (AP)—The town of Breckenridge in central Colorado is removing an art piece of a troll that has become a tourist attraction but also rankled nearby residents. The Summit Daily News reports that town employees started removing the 15-foot (4.5-meter) wood troll in the ski resort town Thursday. The Town Council cited public safety concerns in its Tuesday decision to get rid of the artwork that Danish artist Thomas Dambo was built for a summer arts festival that ended in August. The original plan was to leave the troll in place as long it could withstand the elements and wasn't vandalized. However, throngs of troll-seekers have caused numerous problems for some of nearby homeowners, who have complained about illegal parking, littering and a loss of privacy, among other issues.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Gil Jose Manibusan San Nicolas



In his new life, he now joins his:
Grandfathers: Vidal Palacios Camacho & Francisco Camacho Manibusan
Grandmothers: Maria Cabrera San Nicolas & Rosa Santa Maria Manibusan
Father: Herbert "Michang" San Nicolas
Mother: Ignacia "Achalang" Manibusan San Nicolas
Brothers: Juan Serafin "Munnie" M. San Nicolas, Francisco M. San Nicolas
Sister: Ramona "RB" S.N. Barcinas
Grandfathers-in-law: Benigno Olupumar Sablan & Odorico McGinnis Seman
Grandmothers-in-law: Consolacion Atalig Sablan & Enriqueta Peter Teregeyo
Father-in-law: Joaquin "Jack" Teregeyo
Brothers & Sisters –in-law: Joseph "Tudor" A. Nauta, Mariana D. San Nicolas, Cynthia T. San Nicolas, Jeanne R. San Nicolas, Dolores T. San Nicolas & Jerilyn T. Teregeyo
Reared Son: Aniceto Benigno T. Taitano
He is survived by:
Wife: Irene Teregeyo San Nicolas
Children: **Reneacia Ann T. San Nicolas** & Alingmar B. Ogumoro-Uludong (Ulusmar Joaquin, Amaya Joy & Anabelle Jeanne); **Gilbert Joaquin T.** & Rosemarie E. San Nicolas (Riana Isa, Dylan Storm, Violet Rose & Scarlet Rose); **Catherine "Pum'kin" Elisa T. San Nicolas** (Damien Joel)

Mother-in-law: Ana Sablan Teregeyo
Brothers & Sisters: Children of the late †Juan M. & †Mariana D. San Nicolas, Paz S.N. Nauta & children, Priscilla S.N. Muna & children, Antonio C. Barcinas & Children, Ramon M. & Nenita B. San Nicolas & children, Children of the late †Francisco M. San Nicolas, Esther S.N. & Robert Nesbitt & children, Moises M. & Norinda A. San Nicolas & children, Elisa S.N. & Norberto D. Camacho & daughter, Eloy M. & Christine S. San Nicolas & children
Brothers & Sisters-in-law: Geraldine S. Teregeyo & children, Donald S. Teregeyo & Sharon Rabago & children, Dennis S. Teregeyo & children, Catherine Anne S. Teregeyo & Vincent D. Camacho, Derek Joaquin S. Teregeyo & Carla M. San Nicolas & children

Family at Heart:
Rick & Reggie Kautz & children
Masaaki & Connie Nakamura & children
Mount Carmel School Class of '82
Department of Labor Staff & Management
He will also be missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, God Children and close friends.

Mass of Intention & Holy Rosary are being offered at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag on:

	Mass	Rosary
Monday, November 19	6:15 am	6:00 pm
Tuesday, November 20	6:15 am	6:00 pm
Wednesday, November 21	6:15 am	6:00 pm
Thursday, November 22	8:00 am	after mass
Friday, November 23	6:15 am	6:00 pm
Saturday, November 24	6:00 pm	after mass
Sunday, November 25	8:00 am	after mass

On Monday, November 26, 2018, his remains will leave the CHCC Chapel at 7:30 am and will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed immediately by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Thank you. Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Ghilisow.
Irene, Reneacia/Aling, Gilbert/Rosemarie, Catherine,
Grandchildren & Family

Life & Style

Obama's book sells 1.4 million copies in a week

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama's "Becoming" has become a massive hit.

Crown Publishing told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the former first lady's memoir has sold more than 1.4 million copies in print and digital formats in the U.S. and Canada in the seven days since it was released Nov. 13.

Based on demand from retailers across all channels, the publisher has printed 3 million hardcover copies in North America. On its first day, the book sold more than 725,000 copies, making it one of the year's biggest debuts.

Crown also said that "Becoming" is currently the No. 1 adult nonfiction title in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Holland, Spain, Denmark and Finland. In Germany, some 200,000 copies have been sold, prompting a second printing of 100,000 copies.

Obama

In the United Kingdom, "Becoming" is published by Viking and it has had five press runs with a total of 575,000 copies in print. In Holland, the Dutch-language edition is the best-selling book in the Netherlands, with the English-language edition ranked second.

"Becoming" is well exceeding the pace of previous memoirs by first ladies. In 2003, Hillary Clinton's "Living History" had first week sales of around 600,000 copies.

Reviews of the book, which traces Obama's journey from Chicago's South Side to the White House, have been positive, with The Washington Post praising its "impressive balance in telling the truth of her challenges while repeatedly acknowledging her lucky life."

'Spider-Man' actor tries Thanksgiving pumpkin pie for the first time ever

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Spider-Man" star Tom Holland has tasted pumpkin seeds, but never actual pumpkin.

Holland

However, all that changed for the British actor during a recent Thanksgiving cooking lesson with "Avengers" co-director Joe Russo and chef Jessica Largey who introduced him to kabocha squash, a delicacy known as Japanese pumpkin.

The exclusive cooking lesson was held at Russo's new restaurant called Simone in the arts district of downtown Los Angeles.

"It's hard that I'm starting with probably the best pumpkin I'll ever have," Holland joked with The Associated Press.

Russo is a co-owner of the restaurant with Largey, a James Beard winner. She whipped up the dish with ingredients involving pumpkin, chanterelle mushrooms, passionfruit and some kale.

"That's so good, the passionfruit as well," Holland said before scooping up another spoonful. "And the kale is crunchy so there's a nice like textural thing."

After the taste test, the 22-year-old Holland told the chef "That was delicious. So, I'll come back tomorrow." The actor said he typically spends Thanksgivings in his native United Kingdom.

Largey gave Holland a few tips on how to make macaroni and cheese, one of the actor's favorite foods. She also said the pumpkin dish is one of Russo's favorite on the restaurant's menu.

"Spider-Man" star Tom Holland tastes pumpkin for the first time during a Thanksgiving cooking lesson with a chef from Simone restaurant, co-owned by his "Avengers" director Joe Russo. (Nov. 21)

Holland said he recently learned about a clever recipe on Instagram that calls for cheese to be placed at the bottom of a mug, then basil, tomato sauce and rigatoni are added, before another layer of cheese.

"You put a plate on, flip it that way and bake it. Then you take it off and you have a pasta pie—it's really good and it's super easy to do and it looks way more impressive than it actually is. That's my go-to."

Repatriated 6th-century mosaic to help reconstitute apse

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A rare, 1,500 year-old mosaic depicting St. Mark has joined other repatriated pieces that were looted from the ethnically split Cyprus' breakaway north, a Cypriot Orthodox Church official said Wednesday.

Together the pieces will create a Swiss government-funded reproduction of an apse that adorned a 6th-century church in the island's north.

The mosaics were stolen by Turkish art dealer Aydin Dikman from the Church of the Virgin of Kanakaria about four decades ago and sold abroad.

Cyprus' Byzantine Museum Director Ioannis Eliades said the apse will go on display at the museum until it can return to the Kanakaria church.

"This is a major project that we had envisioned for many years to restore these pieces and now we have the last piece," Eliades told The Associated Press.

"Especially such a mosaic which dates to the same period as the Ravenna mosaics is of particular importance, of great architectural value and ... also has a very high religious value."

A rare mosaic depicting Saint Mark is displayed at the Byzantine Museum after its return to Cyprus, in Nicosia, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018. AP

The Kanakaria mosaics are among a few early Christian works that survived the iconoclastic period in the 8th and 9th centuries when most of such works were destroyed.

The St. Mark mosaic returned to Cyprus after Dutch investigator Arthur Brand tracked it down in Monaco and handed it over to authorities at the Cypriot Embassy in the Netherlands last week.

The Cyprus Antiquities Department said that initial information about the mosaic's whereabouts was provided to Cypriot authorities two years ago by the Greek-American organization AHEPA.

The department said pieces of the mosaics including those of Saints Luke, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Thomas and Andrew as well as the upper part of the Virgin Mary and Christ were gradually repatriated since 1983, but more pieces are still missing.

Lighthearted wedding invitation rubs recipient the wrong way

DEAR ABBY: We received a wedding invitation in the mail today from my husband's nephew. First of all, we are to RSVP by tomorrow. (WHAT?)

Here are our options in responding:

Gladly attend
Regretfully decline
Resentfully attend
Enthusiastically decline
I'll surprise you

The invitation also asked which song we'd like "blasted over our awkward small talk." Granted, there is some animosity among the groom's father's siblings, but I think this is rude, sarcastic and inappropriate. I have a sense of humor but do not find this funny. Am I off the mark?

INSULTED GUEST IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR GUEST: Obviously, you and your husband would have preferred a more formal—and possibly more timely—invitation. Considering the sorry state of family relations on the groom's side, the wording may have been an attempt at humor. It may also have been sincere. If you cannot GLADLY attend, rather than fume, send your regrets.

DEAR ABBY: We don't care much for the wife of one of our new neighbors. The husband is nice, but his wife is overbearing. On the occasions we get together, she interrupts conversations or takes over the conversation whenever she speaks. Occasionally, we see each other around the neighborhood, and it's always a friendly meeting since we can walk away from them.

Once in a while one neighbor will have a few of the others over for a party, but no one wants to invite the new couple because of her. What do we say if either one asks why they aren't invited to some of the parties we have? We live close enough to each other that they might see us entertaining without them. Please don't suggest we invite them and suck it up since we tried that and the evening was not fun for anyone.

STRUGGLING FOR AN ANSWER

DEAR STRUGGLING: Don't worry, I won't. No one should ask a question like that unless prepared for the answer. If one of them is so bold as to ask why they weren't included, I think you should tell the person the truth.

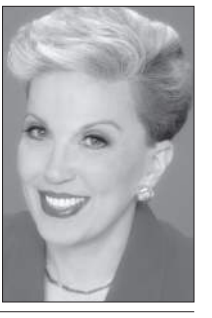
DEAR ABBY: I'm a boy in sixth grade. Recently, my best friend has been hitting me. I try to get her to stop. I've done everything I can think of, but she keeps doing it.

Today in math class, she pinched me or something—I can't remember—so I did it back. Afterward she beat on me with a ruler. I could really use some of your advice.

TIRED OF IT

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

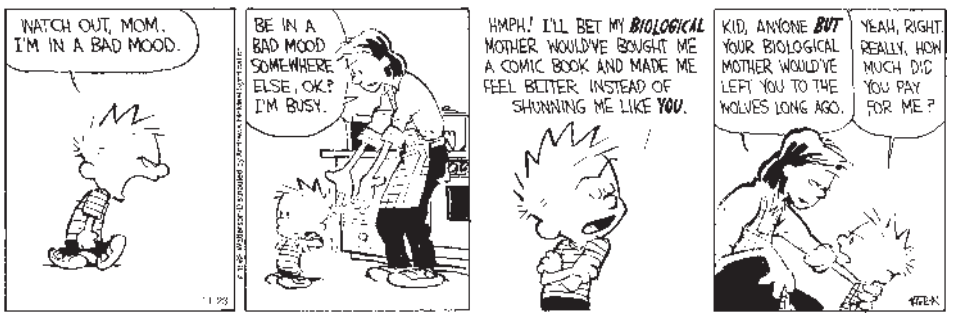
DEAR TIRED OF IT: The person you call your best friend isn't acting like one. She may do it to get attention because she has a crush on you, or because she's a bully. Tell her to stop touching you because you don't like it, but do NOT retaliate by hitting her back. If she persists, tell your teacher what she has been doing because it's creating a distraction when you need to be concentrating in class.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

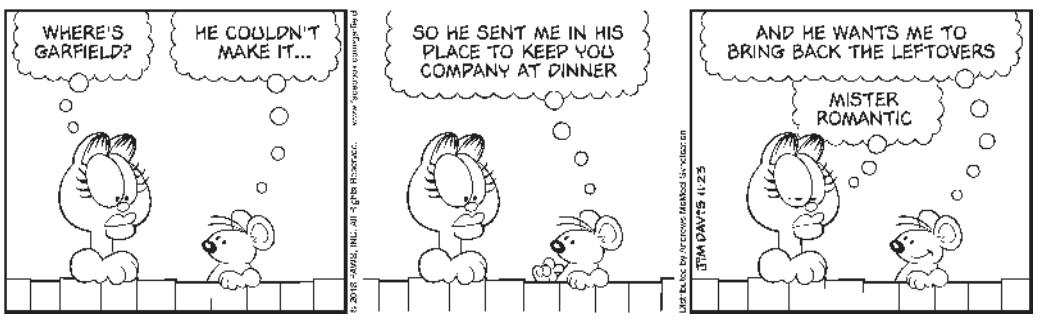
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WATCH OUT, MOM. I'M IN A BAD MOOD.
BE IN A BAD MOOD SOMEWHERE ELSE, OK? I'M BUSY.
HMPH! I'LL BET MY BIOLOGICAL MOTHER WOULD'VE BOUGHT ME A COMIC BOOK AND MADE ME FEEL BETTER INSTEAD OF SHUNNING ME LIKE YOU.
KID, ANYONE BUT YOUR BIOLOGICAL MOTHER WOULD'VE LEFT YOU TO THE WOLVES LONG AGO.
YEAH, RIGHT. REALLY. HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY FOR ME?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WHERE'S GARFIELD?
HE COULDN'T MAKE IT...
SO HE SENT ME IN HIS PLACE TO KEEP YOU COMPANY AT DINNER
AND HE WANTS ME TO BRING BACK THE LEFTOVERS
MISTER ROMANTIC
JIM DAVIS 11-23

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. DON'T PANIC, BUT YOUR NOSE IS LOOKING DARKER. AND WET.
OH, WHY DID I TAKE THAT STUPID DOG PILL? THE TRANSFORMATION HAS BEGUN!
WAIT... WAIT...
I'M CRAVING KIBBLE.
SIT. STAY. LET ME FIX YOU A BIG BOWL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Musical endings
6 Weep
9 Frenzied
12 Thin pancake
13 Shock partner
14 "— Were a Rich Man"
15 Lieu
16 "House of Cards" provider
18 Babbles
20 Architect Saarinen
21 Possesses
23 Refusals
24 Ruhr Valley city
25 Faux pas
27 Molecule parts
29 Got ready for takeoff
31 Twosome
35 Sports bar fixture
37 Dr. McGraw
38 NPR reporter Roberts
41 Grazing land
43 British ref. work
44 Mayberry boy
45 Wee
47 Woodstock rocker Jimi
49 Hackneyed
52 Toss in
53 Submachine gun
54 Pedro's pal
55 Code-breaking gp.
56 Corn spike
57 El Paso native

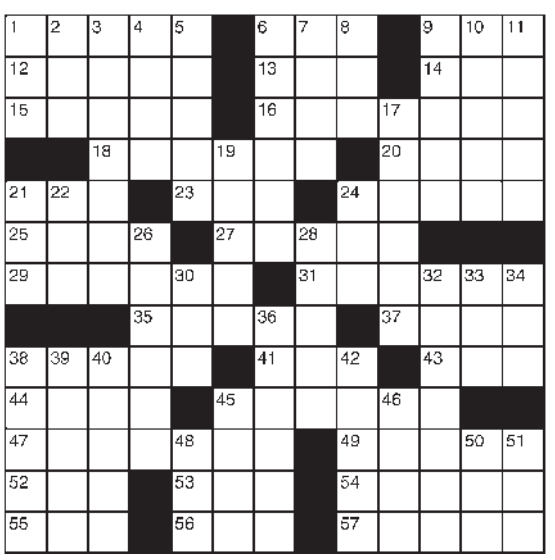
DOWN

1 IV measures
2 Scrap
3 Get rid of
4 On — with
5 Auto style
6 Most rational
7 Has bills
8 Wager
9 Odometer reading
10 Blazing
11 Mason- — Line
17 Admit it
19 Pond hoppers
21 FDR follower
22 Mode lead-in
24 Comic Philips
26 Felt sorry for
28 Group of eight
30 First lady?
32 Capital of Arizona
33 Fib
34 Days of yore
36 Magic potion
38 "Over There" composer
39 Pundits' pieces
40 Sorta
42 Facing the pitcher
45 Minnelli of "Cabaret"
46 Hobbling
48 Paris street
50 Khan title
51 Chaney of horror films

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	L	O	B		B	A	R		A	V	E	R
F	A	V	F		O	O	O		C	O	I	F
A	S	F	A		O	W	I		F	N	I	D
T	I	R	U	S	T		I	A	T	T	F	S
			T	I	C			M	I	R		
O	L	A	Y		A	N	D	Y	C	A	P	P
R	I	P			M	O	E			P	R	O
A	P	P	L	E	P		E		S	P	E	W
		E	A	I				P	O	E		
J	E	I	S	E	I		D	H	A	G	O	N
A	V		S		A	M	I		N	O	G	O
V	E	T	O		R	A	S		C	A	F	O
A	L	E	S		A	S	H		E	D	E	N

Yesterday's answer 11-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miley Cyrus, 26; Salli Richardson-Whitfield, 51; Robin Roberts, 58; Bruce Hornsby, 64.

Happy Birthday: This is a year that can be filled with opportunities but is also one of excess, indulgence and poor choices. Look before you leap. Take the time to get down to the nitty-gritty and to uncover every aspect of any deal or change you want to pursue. Your integrity should not be compromised, regardless of what others do or say. Your numbers are 9, 17, 23, 28, 31, 37, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* A steady pace forward will get you where you want to go. There is money to be made if you don't let your emotions interrupt your progress. A positive change to an important relationship will lead to joint ventures and future plans. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't leave anything to chance. Do your research and stay focused on what you are trying to accomplish. Learn from past experience, and you'll stay on target and within your budget. Don't trust anyone else to handle your affairs. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* There is no time to waste. Size up your situation and get things in order. If someone tries to lead you astray, cut him or her short and make it clear you know what you are doing. Love and romance are featured. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't let the changes other people make influence you or disrupt your plans. Stick to your goal and be willing to put the energy and enthusiasm into finishing what you start. Your determination will pay off. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You are a great organizer and party planner, but don't take on more than you can handle. You'll end up footing the bill if you go over budget. Keep your plans within reason as well as affordable for others. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Problems will surface at home if someone is vague or dishonest. Ask direct questions before you move forward. Take time out to reflect and to mull over what's transpired. Put your energy into personal growth and improvements. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A short trip or attending a reunion will do you good. Don't believe everything you hear, but enjoy others' stories, and share some of your adventures as well. An offer is likely to come with stipulations that may not meet your criteria. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn as you go. Your curiosity will help you gather information that will encourage you to get involved in something unique. Check out the cost before you make a commitment. Knowledge is power; collect and document information. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Stick close to home and surround yourself with people you trust. An argument with a friend, peer or relative will not end well or help you move forward. Share only what's applicable. Offer too much information, and it will be used against you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You don't have to agree to change if it doesn't suit you. Do your own thing if you aren't comfortable with the stipulations or ramifications involved in a plan or offer someone presents. A joint venture will be emotional and risky. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Host an event or make changes to your living arrangements or quarters. An opportunity will result from a friendly conversation with someone you enjoy collaborating with. Check for any potential problems before you proceed. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep the peace, no matter what transpires. Arguments will ruin your day and your relationship with someone you value as a friend or lover. Concentrate on what you can accomplish that will make your homestead more inviting. ✪✪ **Birthday Baby:** You are engaging, talkative and compassionate. You are unpredictable and playful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2						
	3		9			7
	5	2 6		3	8	
8				9		
	1		4			
	9	8			3	
5	7		3	4	2	
4		1			6	
					7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2	7	3	6	4	1	9	8	5
1	8	6	5	9	2	4	7	3
9	5	4	7	8	3	2	1	6
5	3	2	9	7	8	1	6	4
4	6	7	1	3	5	8	2	9
8	1	9	2	6	4	5	3	7
7	4	1	3	2	9	6	5	8
3	9	5	8	1	6	7	4	2
6	2	8	4	5	7	3	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GENDER REVEAL PARTIES — Solution: 10 letters

P	T	C	E	N	T	E	R	P	I	E	C	E	N	S
S	H	H	F	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N
E	C	O	E	L	A	V	I	R	R	A	N	N	I	S
L	O	C	T	M	P	A	P	E	R	V	O	S	T	D
D	C	O	U	O	E	T	Y	O	I	G	H	N	A	N
N	K	L	W	P	S	D	C	T	R	A	E	T	T	E
A	T	A	O	O	C	E	E	A	R	R	E	S	S	I
C	A	T	H	U	D	A	P	E	A	A	A	Ⓑ	E	R
A	I	E	S	D	T	H	K	P	T	E	P	Ⓐ	G	F
R	L	H	O	M	E	D	T	E	F	S	L	Ⓑ	E	A
R	S	T	E	R	M	T	O	R	S	A	O	Ⓨ	N	M
Y	L	S	D	U	L	T	A	O	I	X	V	P	D	I
I	R	W	I	S	H	E	S	I	R	B	E	O	E	L
N	I	E	V	R	A	S	O	U	L	S	N	D	R	Y
G	G	N	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	S	Y	O	B	S

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Arrival, Baby, Balloons, Birth, Box, Boys, Candles, Carrying, Celebration, Centerpiece, Chocolate, Cocktails, Cupcakes, Date, Decorate, Details, Family, Favors, Feast, Food, Friends, Gender, Gestation, Girls, Home, Host, Invite, Love, News, Outdoors, Paper, Parents, Party, Photos, Post, Share, Show, Sonographer, Term, Themed, Video, Wishes

Yesterday's Answer: Library

Visit **WonderWordBooks.com** on BLACK FRIDAY through CYBER MONDAY for an ONLINE-ONLY deal! Use promo code **WWHOL30**

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers. Code documents according to company procedures. Perform financial calculations, such as amounts due, interest charges, balances, discounts, equity, and principal. Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records. Perform general office duties, such as filing, answering telephones, and handling routine correspondence. Access computerized financial information to answer general questions as well as those related to specific accounts.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 36 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk; &
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or PeachTree.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Anita Pagulayan, Vice President/Contracts Manager
GPPC, Inc.
Tun Kioshi Kileleman Rd., As Perdido
P.O. Box 504357 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-9700
E-mail: anniep@gppcinc.com

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GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) STEEL WORKER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members. Verify vertical and horizontal alignment of structural steel members, using plumb bobs, laser equipment, transits, or levels. Cut, bend, or weld steel pieces, using metal shears, torches, or welding equipment. Erect metal or precast concrete components for structures, such as buildings, bridges, dams, towers, storage tanks, fences, or highway guard rails. Force structural steel members into final positions, using turnbuckles, crowbars, jacks, or hand tools. Pull, push, or pry structural steel members into approximate positions for bolting into place. Travel may be necessary to the other islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which include Saipan, Tinian & Rota, to perform work on different construction projects.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 48 months experience in Construction; and
- Knowledge in using welding machine and power tools.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Anita Pagulayan, Vice President/Contracts Manager
GPPC, Inc.
Tun Kioshi Kileleman Rd., As Perdido
P.O. Box 504357 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-9700
E-mail: anniep@gppcinc.com

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- Ability to work both independently & as part of a team
- Proficient in MS Office Word and Excel
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Find today's solution in classified section

LeBron returns and powers Lakers past Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP)—Once the video tribute ended, a simple sentiment filled the giant scoreboard. Against a black backdrop, giant white letters delivered the heartfelt message.

Cleveland wanted to say something.

"THANK YOU, LeBRON," it said.

Eight years after he was treated like a thug, LeBron James was welcomed back properly.

Back on the court where he performed for 11 seasons, and under the title banner he helped raise, James returned to Cleveland and rallied the Los Angeles Lakers to a 109-105 win on Wednesday night over the Cavaliers, who played their best game of the season against their former teammate but couldn't stop him when it mattered most.

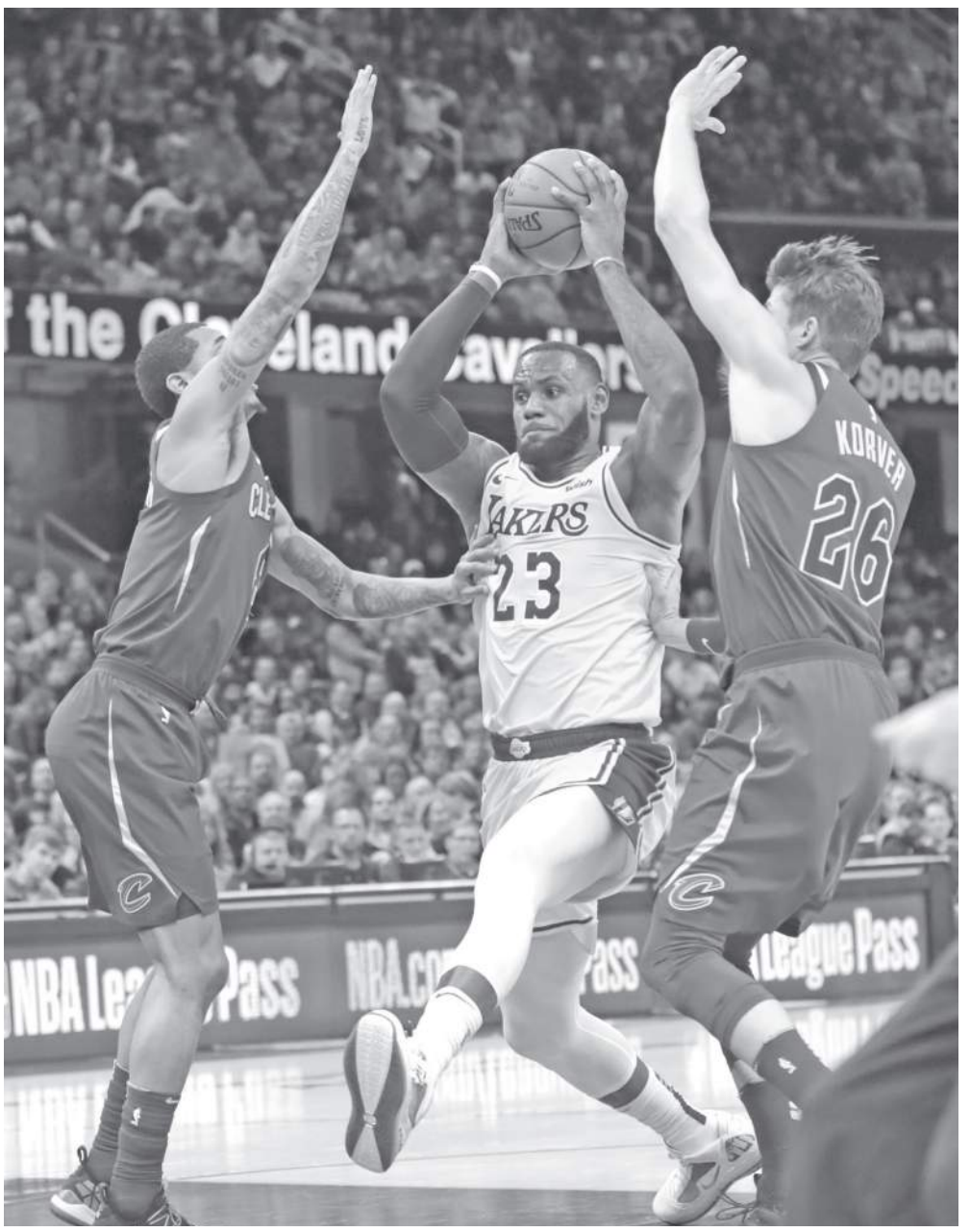
James finished with 32 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists. He also scored or assisted on 11 straight points as the Lakers overcame a 99-91 deficit in the fourth quarter.

But basketball took a backseat to James' homecoming, which was so different than his return in 2010, when betrayed Cleveland fans unleashed their fury on him.

There were no profane chants this time. No derogatory signs. No venom.

Only love, and James felt it.

"From the time we landed yesterday, it just felt a different way," he said. "I'm a different person. We're all different from eight years ago, both good and bad. But more importantly, this experience has been great. So it's all about growth and we all have grown from that moment eight years ago. So I kind of leave the past in the past and always focus on the present and see what happens in the future.



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) drives between Cleveland Cavaliers' Jordan Clarkson, left, and Kyle Korver (26) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018, in Cleveland. The Lakers won, 109-105.

Rockets 126, Pistons 124

In Houston, James Harden scored a season-high 43 points, Clint Capela added 27 and Houston held off Detroit for its fifth straight victory.

Houston has won eight of its last 10 after winning just one of its first six.

Blake Griffin led the Pistons with 37 points and 11 rebounds Andre Drummond added 20 points with 11 rebounds for the Pistons.

76ers 121, Pelicans 120

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 31 points and 19 rebounds and Philadelphia beat New Orleans after Anthony Davis missed the third of three free throws with 2.5 seconds left.

The 76ers are 10-0 at home. They looked in control, up nine points with just under 2 1/2 minutes to play, before a late surge by the Pelicans.

Embiid fouled Davis on a 3-point attempt, and Davis made the first two free throws before the third one went in and out. Davis grabbed the rebound, but his wild attempt at a winning shot was off the mark.

Knicks 117, Celtics 109

In Boston, Trey Burke scored 29 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. had 21 and New York beat Boston to snap a six-game losing streak.

Noah Vonleh had 16 points and Enes Kanter finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds. New York won for the fifth time in 19 games.

Kyrie Irving led the Celtics with 22 points and 13 assists, and Marcus Morris had 21 points. Boston has lost three straight to fall to 9-9.

Hornets 127, Pacers 109

In Charlotte, Jeremy Lamb scored 21 points, NBA scoring leader Kemba Walker had 16 points and a season-high 11 assists and Charlotte beat Indiana.

Walker scored 103 points in his previous two games, including 60 against Philadelphia on Saturday night. But Walker only attempted 10 shots, instead taking advantage of double teams to find teammates for open looks. Charlotte shot 62 percent from 3-point range, making a season-high 18 of 29 shots from beyond the arc.

Bucks 143, Trail Blazers 100

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo matched his season high with 33 points and finished an assist short of a triple-double in three quarters to help Milwaukee rout Portland.

Antetokounmpo added 16 rebounds and nine assists in 30 minutes. CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard each had 22 points for the Trail Blazers.

Grizzlies 104, Spurs 103

In San Antonio, Mike Conley had 30 points, Marc Gasol hit two free throws with 0.7 seconds left and Memphis beat San Antonio.

San Antonio's DeMar DeRozan had 24 points, including a fadeaway 15-footer in the left corner with 1.2 seconds remaining for a 103-102 lead.

Gasol drew a foul from Rudy Gay on the inbound pass and hit both free throws, and LaMarcus Aldridge missed a 3-point try at the buzzer.

Bulls 124, Suns 116

In Chicago, Jabari Parker had 20 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, and Chicago beat Phoenix to stop a four-game slide.

Chicago shot a season-high 56.8 percent in just its third win in its last 12 games. Zach LaVine scored 29 points after missing Saturday night's loss to Toronto due to an illness, and Ryan Arcidiacono finished with 14.

Raptors 124, Hawks 108

In Atlanta, Kyle Lowry scored 21 points in his first triple-double of the season and Toronto beat Atlanta.

Lowry had 17 assists and 12 rebounds for his 13th career triple-double.

Vince Carter's dunk for the Hawks with less than a second remaining pushed him past 25,000 career points. He became the 22nd NBA player to reach the milestone.

Mavericks 119, Nets 113

In Dallas, Harrison Barnes scored a season-high 28 points, Devin Harris broke a fourth-quarter tie with eight straight points and Dallas beat Brooklyn.

Teenage rookie Luka Doncic had 21 points and nine rebounds to help the Mavericks win their fifth consecutive home game.

Kings 119, Jazz 110

In Salt Lake City, Willie Cauley-Stein scored 23 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic had 18 to help Sacramento beat Utah.

Nemanja Bjelica made a 3-pointer with 4:56 remaining to finish a 16-1 run that turned a two-point game into a 105-88 lead.

Nuggets 103, Timberwolves 101

In Minneapolis, Paul Millsap had 25 points, Jamal Murray added 18 and Denver held off Minnesota.

Karl-Anthony Towns led Minnesota with 22 points, and Derrick Rose added 20 off the bench.

Woods-Mickelson match will be unique experience for viewers

LAS VEGAS (A)—Golf used to have a prominent place on the Thanksgiving weekend calendar with The Skins Game. That made-for-TV event ended in 2008 but Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson will have their own high-stakes showdown Friday.

After years of discussion, the two will compete in "The Match" at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas, a $9 million winner-take-all event that will air on pay-per-view.

Many wondered if a Woods vs. Mickelson match was a thing of the past.

The two have combined for 123 PGA Tour victories and 19 majors but had struggled in recent years. Talk of a match was revived earlier this year when Mickelson won in Mexico and Woods started to be competitive again before winning at The Tour Championship in September.

Mickelson said the original premise was both partnering up with some of the sport's younger stars, but television executives and fans have always wanted to see the two go head to head.

"To have the opportunity to go head to head and to win is just. . it's great to win the 9 million. I just don't want to lose to him and give him the satisfaction, because the bragging rights are what's going to be even worse than the money," Mickelson said during a press conference Tuesday.

Both were part of the U.S. team at the Ryder Cup but have not competed since then.

"After the Ryder Cup I shut it down for about 3-4 weeks and started to basically work on my body and try to get it stronger again," Woods said. "I was really looking forward to the break, but I'm really looking forward to getting back to playing again. I missed competing, and to be able to go against Phil like this gets my juices flowing for sure."

Mickelson said he has been working on his game the past four weeks and that this is a good way during the offseason to prepare for next year.

Many golf fans are used to made-for-TV events that have been genteel affairs. This will be the complete opposite.

For starters, this is believed to be golf's first pay-per-view match. This is the first major event with Warner Media, which was formed after the recent merger between Time Warner and AT&T. Turner Sports and BR Live are producing the event and it is being shown online as well as on DirecTV and AT&T U-Verse and other cable and satellite outlets for $19.95.

Ernie Johnson Jr., who has done the PGA Championship for Turner, will be the main announcer but it will feature others including Natalie Gulbis, Charles Barkley and Samuel L. Jackson

The broadcast will feature both golfers mic'd up as well as the caddies (Joe LaCava for Woods and Tim Mickelson for his older brother). With it being on pay-per-view, there will be no commercial breaks and plenty of opportunities to hear both golfers try to one up each other with verbal jabs.

"It's like a Tuesday practice round for a significant stake that makes us uncomfortable, but with the same type of banter that we're used to that most fans aren't privy to," Mickelson said.

Woods and Mickelson used to be bitter rivals, but the relationship has improved in recent years as both got to know each other during Ryder Cups. But Darren Clarke, who has competed against both, expects the rivalry to intensify during the match.

Brewers could be perfect dark horse fit for Harper

AP
Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper waits for the pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Monday, April 16, 2018, in New York.

WASHINGTON—Bryce Harper, a National League MVP at 23, is a free agent at 26, peddling his services in an industry that's grown to nearly $11 billion in annual revenues. His combination of skills, age and marketing cachet make him an excellent fit for any major league franchise.

Including the Milwaukee Brewers.

Harper, who has 184 career home runs and a lifetime .900 OPS, rejected a 10-year, $300 million contract offer from the Washington Nationals in September, and is a good bet to set a new standard for the most lucrative contract in North American sports history.

It may take weeks for that process to play out. In the meantime, USA TODAY Sports will examine why every team could use Harper's services—some more than others, certainly some better equipped to procure them.

A case for Harper and the Brewers joining forces:

We all deserve to splurge every now and again. And the Milwaukee Brewers have earned the right to treat themselves.

General manager David Stearns—and his predecessor, Doug Melvin—helmed a re-tooling that produced impact players at friendly prices. And in an era where several franchises struggle to extract themselves from "tanking" mode, Stearns hit the afterburners at just the right time.

His signing of outfielder Lorenzo Cain and acquisition of Christian Yelich last January could not have gone better: Yelich and Cain ranked 1-2 in National League position player Wins Above Replacement. Yelich went on to win NL MVP.

And the Brewers' season lasted all the way to Game 7 of the NL Championship Series, falling just a few innings shy of their first World Series berth since 1982.

Most notably, Stearns assembled this core with a significant amount of cost certainty.

The five-year, $80 million deal given to Cain now looks like a bargain. For now, the mere cost of prospects to acquire Yelich has not yet come back to bite the Brewers.

And for the next four seasons, they will have the 2018 NL MVP in their lineup for the low cost of $12.8 million per season.

In the big picture, they'd be spending some $35 million per season on Harper – say, 12 years and $420 million. In the near term, they could view it as paying one of the greatest outfields of all time—two NL MVPs and a world class center fielder—an average of $21.2 million per man.

Not bad, eh?

More cash will loosen up after 2020, when the last of the $40 million guaranteed Ryan Braun falls off the books. In the meantime, they can shift Braun to first base and perhaps deal Jesus Aguilar—at the height of his value—to an American League team.

And if Yelich enjoyed the boost in production moving from Marlins to Miller Park, imagine the bounce Harper might receive.

While Harper's Nationals Park rated better last season as a home run haven (1.17 per game, park-adjusted, to Miller's 1.12), the Brewers' home stadium is far better for power hitters as the data set grows. Twice this decade it's led the majors in home run indulgence.

Yelich, who also made some key tweaks to his swing, doubled his home run output from 18 to 36 while playing in nine fewer games in 2018. It's not hard to imagine a 26-year-old Harper toppling his career best of 42 homers—particularly surrounded by Cain, Yelich, Braun and Travis Shaw.

With a franchise value of $1.03 billion and annual revenues of $255 million, according to Forbes, the Brewers have the cash. In fact, they've now moved up two slots, to No. 25, in franchise value, and have appreciated nicely since owner Mark Attanasio bought the club for $223 million in 2005.

Still, their market limitations are real. That brings us back to Stearns and his front-office lieutenants: They chased down the Cubs in September with Wade Miley, Jhoulys Chacin, Chase Anderson, Junior Guerra, Zach Davies and others comprising their rotation down the stretch. None made more than $7 million last season.

They got within one game of the World Series with a mélange of Miley, Gio Gonzalez, Chacin and reliever Brandon Woodruff starting playoff games.

In short, the Brewers know how to contain costs with creativity. A Saks Fifth Avenue lineup paired with a pitching staff purchased at Kohl's might look odd – but it can work.

LONGUSKI

From Page 24

Gabriel Tiu, Kubo Taro, and Jeff Race were the other top finishers in their respective age group. Race, who had the most Turkey Trot appearances among this year's participants with his 20-plus races to Mt. Tapochao, ruled the 50 and over age group after coming in at No. 20 overall (out of nearly 100 runners) and posting 52:36. Taro earned the top honors in the 30 to 39 age group after recording 47:05, which was the fifth best time in the entire field. Tiu, on the other hand, got first place in the U12 division after registering 1:09:27.

In the women's division, Mt. Carmel School's Kaithlyn Chavez lorded it over anew in the U12 age group after breaking the one-hour barrier (59:15), while Tania Tan also had a repeat in the U17 division after timing in at 50:52 (third overall in the women's). Completing the age group winners were Ayano Braxton, Antonina Banes, and Sakiko Eda. Braxton prevailed in the 30 to 39 division after logging 51:49, while Banes and Eda won in the 40 to 49 and 50 and over after tallying 1:05:12 and 49:43, respectively.

Meanwhile, NMA would like to thank Joeten for donating turkeys. The association also acknowledged Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, IT&E, MARPAC/Budweiser, and DFS Saipan/T Galleria for donating raffle prizes.

Streaking Saints, Brees seek to ground sagging Falcons

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The latest chance for Saints fans to show Drew Brees their gratitude for the many memorable, triumphant moments he's brought them comes on Thanksgiving night.

The Saints (9-1) are riding an NFL-high, nine-game winning streak as the rival Atlanta Falcons (4-6) land in New Orleans, so don't expect a sleepy crowd in the Superdome, no matter how well-fed.

Some 13 seasons after Brees embraced the challenge of resurrecting a downtrodden franchise in a disaster-ravaged city, his level of play, at age 39, appears as high as ever.

He is on pace to break his own single-season record completion rate of 72 percent. His touchdown-to-interception ratio is 25-1. And the Saints, averaging 37.9 points per game, are threatening to score more points in a season than any team in NFL history.

"He's been as challenging a guy to go against over the years as you can imagine," Falcons coach Dan Quinn said, adding that he's been particularly struck by Brees' accuracy and decisiveness. "To say he's doing it better than ever—he's been doing it pretty well for a long time, but I'd say he's certainly doing it as well."

With the luxury of a strong offensive line and running game—not to mention playing with a lot of leads—Brees has been able to throw selectively and efficiently. He has also benefited from receiver Michael Thomas' monster year, but demonstrated in a 48-7 win over Philadelphia on Sunday that he can connect, to prolific effect, with younger, lesser-known targets as well.

"There's a lot to be said for experience," a grinning Brees said as he reprised an old expression about wisdom trumping youth and skill.

"When we step on the field, I feel like I can see it before it happens, and it takes a lot of work to get to that point. That doesn't mean there's not surprises. ... but I feel good playing the game right now."

The Falcons aren't feeling so good about their season so far. Their last-second loss to Dallas last Sunday dropped them five games behind the NFC South-leading Saints with six games left.

"We've got to get the bad taste out of our mouth," Atlanta receiver Julio Jones said. "It's going to be a great game. We're going to have fun. People are going to fly around. People are going to get up. You don't have to worry about people not being ready to play this game. We're just going to be out there swinging."

Some other prominent story lines surrounding the 100th meeting between the Falcons and Saints:

While the teams are spread apart in the standings, they played each other pretty close the previous time they met in Week 3 in Atlanta. New Orleans needed a late TD to force overtime and won in the extra period. The Saints are nearly two-TD favorites in the rematch, which would seem appropriate given New Orleans has outscored its past two opponents 99-21 combined. But Brees' experience against Atlanta tells him otherwise.

"These are always hard-fought games," Brees said. "They're games that typically come down to the last possession."

Added Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan: "They have a potential high-ceiling offense. This is something we have to be aware of."

While Brees has not thrown an interception at home this season, the Falcons counter with safety Damontae Kazee, who leads the NFL with five interceptions, a career high. He is the first Atlanta player with as many as five interceptions in a season since 2012, when Thomas DeCoud had six and Asante Samuel had five.

LeBron returns and powers Lakers past Cavs

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Longuski, Santos lead finishers

Finishers in yesterday's 34th Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run pose for a group photo after the race. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Repeat winner Keith Longuski and first-timer Eleina Santos survived a windy finish to top yesterday's 34th Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Runners and babies in strollers make their way to the finish line.

Northern Marianas Athletics

Longuski was on the lead group with the equally competitive Whit Altizer of Saipan International School and Tinian High School's Tyler Santos and managed to gain cushion in the last climb to complete the 4.2-mile race from Lower Base to the highest peak on Saipan in 38:08. It was Longuski third first place finish (overall) in the annual run after prevailing in 2015 (37:28) and last year (38:16).

"It gets harder year after year, as a I get older. Today, the wind was so strong on the way up here. But it's (weather) better that Yutu," the 34-year-old said.

Eleina seconded Longuski's observation on the weather at the finish line, making it extra challenging for her to wrap up her first Turkey Trot Run.

"The strong wind in the last stretch was kind of pushing me back and slowed me down a bit. But, it was fun as I finally experienced doing this race," said Eleina, who clocked in a 48:49 to take the first place honor in the women's field.

She and Longuski each received turkey during the awards ceremony for the Northern Marianas Athletics-organized event. The same prize was given to the top finishers in other age groups.

Altizer was one of them, as he submitted 40:19 for second place overall and first in the men's 40 to 49 division. Tyler was ranked third overall and first in the U17 division after timing in at 42:19.

See LONGUSKI on Page 23

Two runners sprint to the finish line. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners head out from Lower Base to Capitol Hill for the early morning run. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tough luck for Carol

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ITF Juniors

CNMI junior player Carol Lee was forced to miss her doubles game in the Mundial Juvenil Yucatan HSBC FMT in Mexico last Wednesday.

Lee had to forfeit her opening match in the Grade A tournament after her teammate, Hania Abouelsaad of Egypt, sustained an injury before their game versus American Zoe Hitt and Canadian Alisia Stephanie Manolescu at the Club Campestre de Yucatán Calle in Merida. With the loss, the Commonwealth bet bowed out of competition in her second event in Mexico.

Hitt and Manolescu followed suit, as this time they were not lucky in the second round after falling to No. 1 seed Hurricane Tyra Black and Cori Gauff. The American duo eased its way to a 6-1, 6-0 victory to march into the quarterfinals, which was completed yesterday as seven other teams advanced in the doubles play.

In the singles, Lee faltered on her third round bid after losing to No. 13 seed and world No. 43 Adrienn Nagy of Hungary, 3-6, 3-6.

With Lee done with her pair of competitions in Mexico, she will head to the U.S. this weekend for her last two world ranking events of the season.

The 16-year-old's first stop will be Bradenton in Florida for the Eddie Herr International Junior Championship. The Eddie Herr event is a Grade 1 competition and will take place at the IMG Academy from Nov. 26 to Dec. 2. Lee will remain in Florida in the first week of December, as she participates in the Orange Bowl that will be played at the Frank Veltri Tennis Center at the Plantation Central Park from Dec. 3 to 9.